

Arafat recovering, receives visitors

TUNIS (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was recovering Friday from a throat infection that had raised concern about his health when he is grappling with problems in establishing Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Arafat fell ill Wednesday, and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and diplomats at first said he was contemplating flying him to Jordan for treatment. But visitors said the 64-year-old PLO chairman appeared to be getting better and resumed some of his duties Friday. Among his appointments was a two-hour interview and lunch with television anchorman Dan Rather of the American network CBS. The interview had been set for Wednesday, but was cancelled when Mr. Arafat was taken to Tunis hospital for a medical checkup after feeling tired and ailing. "He looked good and energetic, but had a slight cough," Mr. Rather told the Associated Press. Mr. Rather said Arafat's wife, Suha, attended the session and that the PLO chief mocked her English because of a remark she made Thursday saying he had "angina," which could mean a heart condition.

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King Hassan confers with Peres

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has conferred with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the royal place of Rabat, officials said on Friday. Mr. Peres, who met with the king on Thursday night, arrived on a surprise visit to Morocco after visiting Mexico, Colombia and Argentina. "He informed the king about the latest developments in the Middle East peace process," MAP said. King Hassan "confirmed to Peres that he accepts to preside the summit of the international economic conference related to the Middle East economic development to be held in Marrakesh during the first days of November," MAP added. Although they have no diplomatic relations, Mr. Peres has visited Morocco several times. The last time was in September with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after the signing of the peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Washington. The king has for years played a behind-the-scenes role in helping to bring about a rapprochement between Israel and the Arabs. Contacts have been brokered by Jews of Moroccan origin who emigrated to Israel and now number about 600,000.

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Iraqi Baathists get powers to curb prices

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein, who has taken personal charge of sanctions-racked Iraq's government, is mobilising members of his ruling Baath Party in the fight against soaring prices and runaway inflation. State-run newspapers reported on Friday that President Saddam had authorised party branches and divisions to send shopkeepers and traders who violate government price guidelines to jail — powers normally exercised by the police and judiciary. Baghdad traders said President Saddam, who took over the job of prime minister on Monday, had been touring markets in his field marshal's uniform, talking to ordinary people and merchants about ways of reducing prices. Anyone infringing government-determined prices faces jail terms of up to one year. If they offend again they risk losing their licence and having their shops closed.

Thai police arrest Iranian suspect

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai police said they arrested Friday one of the Iranians suspected of a role in an attempt to car-bomb the Israeli embassy in Bangkok last March. Authorities said they seized Hussein Shannari, 25, a day after he had fled the southern town of Hat Yai from Malaysia. He was flown to Bangkok on Friday and produced at a police news conference. Police launched a hunt for two Iranians after they uncovered a gigantic homemade bomb in a truck that had been involved in an accident near the Israeli embassy on March 11.

U.S. plans sanctions against EI Al

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government's Department of Transportation is moving to cut the number of flights the Israeli airline El Al is allowed in the United States because Israel is refusing to allow World Airways, an American firm, to serve Tel Aviv. Proposed sanctions against El Al were announced Thursday by the department, to take effect June 22. On that date El Al would be required to reduce its New York-Tel Aviv service by three flights per week. The airline has a week to object to the sanctions. World, based in Herndon, Virginia, had planned to institute three weekly flights on that route starting June 29, but was refused by the Israeli government. With the proposed reduction, El Al would be limited to 17 weekly flights from New York to Tel Aviv and 15 flights from Tel Aviv to New York, down from 20 and 18.

Israeli gets 100,000 ex-Soviet immigrants

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The 100,000th immigrant to arrive from the former Soviet Union into the floodgates opened in 1989 slipped unnoticed into Israel this week, the government's central bureau of statistics said Friday. The person was not identified by the bureau which noted that recent immigrants from the old Soviet empire now account for 10 per cent of Israel's population. Among the newcomers, 37,000 are qualified engineers, 12,000 doctors or dentists, 12,000 nurses and 12,000 musicians or writers. However, most have failed to find work to suit their qualifications.

Blast kills 3 in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Three men were killed and at least four other people were injured late Thursday when an explosion wrecked a three-story building here showering debris over a wide area. The explosion, which fire department officials say may have been caused by a natural gas leak, sent flames leaping into the night sky above the city's Tenderloin district. It took an hour to contain the blaze.

Yemenis accept U.N. call, but continue war

Combined agency dispatches

RIVAL YEMENI army units fought an artillery battle near the southern stronghold of Aden on Friday, despite both sides' acceptance of a U.N. Security Council call for a ceasefire.

The duel took place around the village of Lahj, around 30 kilometres north of Aden, a day after troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh edged closer to this port city, reports said.

Southern anti-aircraft guns in Aden also went into action but no missile or bomb explosion was heard.

Mr. Saleh's northern forces have mounted "fierce offensives on all fronts, destroying villages and killing civilians," charged the southern command of the president's rival, Ali Salem Al Beidh.

"We are resisting with all our strength to protect our land and our honour," it said.

The south also renewed a charge that Iraqi soldiers were fighting alongside the northern forces. Five Iraqis were captured in the oil region of Shabwa, 300 kilometres northeast of Aden, it said.

Mr. Beidh's self-declared Yemen Democratic Republic also renewed its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 924 calling for a ceasefire in the month-long civil war.

The north on Thursday also said it was prepared to halt the fighting and implement the resolution, as several dozen people were killed in battles on all the frontlines around Aden.

On the political front, a northern spokesman in Sanaa condemned the south's formation of a separate government and warned that it could only lead to further bloodshed.

"This separatist act aims only to torpedo the efforts underway to restore security and stability in our nation in line with Security Council 924," the spokesman said.

"This band of secessionists has shown once more that it is determined to pursue the bloodshed to impose secession by force," he charged.

The south on Thursday formed a cabinet headed by Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, appointed prime minister of the breakaway state, a day after the Security Council resolution.

A senior northern official, meanwhile, welcomed the appointment of Lakhdar Brahimi as U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali's special envoy to Yemen.

Mr. Brahimi is a "respected Arab figure and capable of carrying out this mission," Abdul Aziz Ahmad Ghani, a member of the presidential council, said in an interview with the Qatari News Agency.

(QNA).

Under the ceasefire mission, the former Algerian foreign minister is in charge of a U.N. fact-finding mission to Yemen. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak telephoned both Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh asking them to call a halt to the fighting, Cairo Radio reported.

He called them late Thursday and urged them to withdraw their forces from the combat zones as a first step towards resolving the crisis.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad also called the Yemeni rivals on Thursday urging them to settle their differences.

Political and diplomatic sources in Sanaa said the northern government has sent fresh troops, estimated at up to five brigades, to fronts around Aden.

Northern forces have fired at least four missiles at Aden since the truce call and advanced along fronts further east.

Northern Information Minister Hassan Ahmad Al Lawzi told reporters in Sanaa: "There has not yet been a political decision to enter Aden and no soldier has entered the city."

"At the moment there's no justification for going into the principal quarters of the city because it is completely surrounded on the land side."

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Israel masses troops for possible strike at Lebanon

Tension mounts, peace process threatened after Israeli raid kills 50

Combined agency dispatches

COLUMNS OF Israeli tanks and artillery deployed along the northern border Friday, prepared to strike at resistance forces in Lebanon if they renewed Katyusha rocket attacks on Israel.

The violence, ignited by an Israeli air raid a day earlier, strained a 10-month ceasefire and Middle East peace talks. After a night in bomb shelters and secure rooms, hundreds of civilians fled southern Lebanon and Israelis in droves cancelled weekend bookings at northern resorts.

The exodus began after Israel responded to the dozens of Katyusha rockets fired overnight with howitzers. Its fighter jets swooped low over southern Lebanon, sonic booms

echoing across the hills. U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said one Hizbollah fighter was killed and two Fijian peacekeepers were wounded, one seriously, in three firefights in southern Lebanon. The U.N. maintains a 5,250-member peacekeeping force in the region.

The Katyushas landed across northern Israel but caused no casualties or serious damage. One missile started a brush fire that was quickly extinguished, Israeli army radio said.

The violence followed Israel's deadliest raid in almost a year Thursday. Up to 50 people were killed and at least 30 wounded at the training base belonging to Hizbollah near the Syrian border with Lebanon.

In the West Bank town of

Hebron, about 100 activists protesting the air raid threw rocks at 30 Israeli soldiers who responded with tear-gas and rubber-coated metal bullets. A leftist from the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) vowed revenge for the dead Lebanese guerrillas.

Lebanese observed a complete shutdown to mourn the victims of Thursday's air raid. Public and private institutions, schools, banks and shops closed down in Muslim and Christian areas.

Radio and television stations suspended their normal programmes and broadcast verses from the Holy Koran and classical music.

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Hizbollah plots revenge against Israel, page 2

Gaza police chief vows to nab 'collaborator' killers

GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestinian police chief in Gaza said Friday he vowed on Friday to capture militants who killed two suspected collaborators with Israel last week.

"(I swear) by God, I will bring them in even if it costs me 100 martyrs," Major-General Nasr Yousef said. He praised the Islamic Hamas movement for undertaking to stop the killing of informers but said the group seemed unable to control all its members.

"We are willing to live with any behaviour so long as there is no bloodshed," Gen. Yousef told a public meeting.

Hamas men killed Abdul Wahhab Radi and Husam Doush in Gaza City on May 27, accusing them of collaborating and killing Palestinians.

The killing, the first since Palestinian policemen took control of the Gaza Strip, has become a test of wills between Hamas and the Palestinian authority backed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mahmoud Al Zahhar, an Islamic known for close ties to

Hamas, said the police demands were not acceptable.

"Those people are not killers and thus pursuing them is wrong," Mr. Zahhar said. "This thing happened while the police did not complete building of its institutions."

Gen. Yousef stressed that the police were in favour of political pluralism and invited Hamas members to join the Palestinian forces.

"We have asked our brothers in the nationalist and Islamic political groups, those who carried weapons (against the occupation) to join the national security forces."

He said only a few responded to the call.

Gaza militants have threatened a PLO official with violence for saying they lacked discipline and were unfit to be policemen, Israeli Radio reported.

Sufian Abu Zaid had said that he sacked 70 local recruits to the Palestinian police force because they could not meet

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Gaza police 'overworked,' 'under-equipped,' page 10

Jerusalem issue could spark war — expert

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli former head of intelligence warned Friday that rival Arab and Israeli claims to Jerusalem could lead to a "jihad."

Yehoshafat Harkabi, quoted by the Yediot Aharonot daily, said Israel could not keep hold of East Jerusalem, which it seized in 1967, indefinitely.

He said: "Those who think Jerusalem will stay under Israeli control are fooling themselves because we have to take account of its importance for Christians and Muslims."

That could plunge us into war. "If there is any subject capable of provoking jihad, it is Jerusalem, and our attitude could create all the right conditions for it. I find it difficult to believe the Arabs, and not just the Palestinians, would accept to have no part of Jerusalem."

Mr. Harkabi, head of military intelligence between 1955

(Continued on page 5)



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received upon their return home Friday by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and other members of the Royal Family (Petra photo)

King, Queen return home

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home on Friday after a two-week private visit to Britain.

The King is expected to leave Jordan for the United States June 16 where he will hold talks with President Bill Clinton on the Middle East peace process, especially the Jordanian track of the negotiations, informed sources said.

The sources said that a tri-lateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli economic committee, expected to hold its first meeting in Washington later in the month.

Jordan and Israel signed an agenda for their talks in September but the negotiations have made little headway since.

Jordanian sources said the negotiations have been bogged down because of Israel's refusal to discuss issues that Jordan believes should proceed talks of regional economic cooperation and development.

They said Israel wants to discuss regional development

before first agreeing to demarcate its borders with the Kingdom, something which Jordan categorically rejects.

Israel also wants to sign a peace deal with the Kingdom before settling the issues on the agenda. But Jordan insists the Jewish state withdraw from occupied Jordanian land and return its share in the waters of Jordan and Yarmouk rivers before any peace deal is concluded.

Sources expected the Jordanian-U.S. summit to be held in Washington some time between June 16 and 24 when the King will be in the United States for his final by-annual medical check up at Mayo Clinic.

The King will from now on have annual check-ups at the clinic, where he underwent successful surgery in 1992.

King Hussein, who last met with President Clinton in January, received in London Jordanian delegates to the multi-lateral peace talks, sources said.

They said the King also met with a Jordanian economic team that was formed to draw up a Jordanian strategy on the

talks with Israel.

The team, which is parallel to the formal delegation to the peace talks, includes economic experts among whom are former Minister of Finance Basel Jaradneh, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's advisers Mohammad Saqqaf and Ahmed Mungo.

King Hussein and Queen Noor were received upon their arrival here by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of the King, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Taghreed, Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, and other Royal Family members as well as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Taher Al Masri, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, the King's advisors and other senior officials.

King Hussein was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Major-General Hameid Al Fayed, the King's advisor on military affairs.

Sales tax takes effect, but market impact yet to be felt

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The much-awaited sales tax law took effect on Wednesday after more than 30 months of debate, but the taxpayers and retail outlets are not expected to feel any immediate direct impact of the levy since it replaces the consumption tax which went into effect two years ago.

If anything, economic analysts and officials say, the average consumer might even enjoy a slight decline in prices of many basic items if importers and producers as well as retailers decide to reflect a three-per cent cut in the levy in their market prices.

The judgement of the analysts came against a backdrop of severe criticism in the local press of the law and what businessmen assert as

ambiguities of implementing the levy.

Concerted government assertions that the sales tax would not lead to higher market prices and that the poor are protected under the legislation have not been accepted by businessmen who continue to argue that the very concept of such taxation is a recipe for a hike in the cost of living.

Little consideration is also given to the government argument that the sales tax only replaces the consumption tax, something that the market is used to since 1992, and the actual change is in the categorisation of the levy.

Government officials also note that the expected revenues from the sales tax in the 1994 budget are the same as the actual income from consumption tax in 1993 — JD170 million.

Analysts and officials

noted that Parliament reduced a government-proposed 10 per cent sales tax on most items to seven per cent. In effect, it means that items that carried 10 per cent consumption tax now carry only seven per cent.

Other items, including those classified as luxury products, carry 20 per cent — the ceiling of the levy — compared with rates ranging up to 60 per cent. Fifty-five items are exempt from the tax.

The sales tax law is expected to be coupled with a hike in customs duties for most imports of "luxury" products to maintain an edge for local equivalents.

The endorsement of the sales tax law by Parliament met a basic requirement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is super-

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N. Korea remains defiant as sanctions clock ticks

TOKYO (Agencies) — North

Korea warned Friday that it would regard any sanctions imposed against it over its suspected nuclear arms development as a declaration of war.

"We have already notified the parties concerned that economic sanctions would be regarded as a declaration of war against us," North Korea's first vice foreign minister, Kang Sok-Ju, was quoted as saying in a statement.

The statement was carried by the Pyongyang-based Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"In this case, not only the parties joining in the sanctions against our republic but also those backing such sanctions will be held responsible," the statement said, according to a

KCNA dispatch monitored here.

"This is not what we want" but "the United States must not take our patience for a sign of weakness," the statement said.

The warning came amid increasing speculation that the U.N. Security Council might take punitive action against North Korea for its refusal to open nuclear facilities for satisfactory inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

A senior Japanese foreign ministry official was quoted as saying Friday that Japan, South Korea and the United States would seek sanctions against North Korea acceptable to China.

"The United States feels it

has been betrayed by North Korea," the official, who refused to be named, was quoted as saying by Kyodo News Service.

China, one of the five U.N. Security Council permanent members, has repeatedly said that the North Korean nuclear issue should be settled through dialogue.

Mr. Kang also saw North Korea still wanted to hold talks with the United States and said that if such talks were not forthcoming it would expand its nuclear programme.

"If the United States is willing to have the talks now, our proposal for a package solution is still valid. But, if it chooses a strongarm measure, our option too will change."

"We will go over to the next

Non-aligned seek new world role

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) pledged to map out a strategy for the 21st century Friday seeking to define its role in the post-cold war world, despite being dogged here by regional disputes.

"The ministers are resolved to impart a new dynamism to the movement to enable its members to enter the 21st century as a vibrant and constructive force on the world scene," they said in a Cairo declaration.

The declaration was adopted by foreign ministers from 109 member countries at the end of a four-day meeting at which they nominated Colombia to take over the presidency of the group.

NAM celebrates its 40th anniversary next year and is conscious that it faces a very different climate to that when it was created in 1955.

The movement was born out of a desire by developing countries to escape from the cold war division of the world which saw the international arena dominated by the superpowers of the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Its anniversary will coincide with the 50th birthday of the United Nations and NAM hopes to play a greater role in the U.N. in the forthcoming years.

"Responding to the changes in international relations represents the most formidable challenge before the movement in the years to come," the final declaration said.

But regional difficulties were highlighted throughout the four-day conference which sought to steer a course through the political differences between several member countries.

Iraq and Yemen were the strongest critics of the final declaration.

In a resolution on the Yemen civil war, NAM backed the U.N. Security Council's ceasefire call and urged the northern and southern rivals to settle their differences peacefully.

But Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Bassandawa, a northerner, condemned the call because it made no mention of the country's four-year-old unity or references to the Republic of Yemen.

"Yemen's unity must not be massacred," he warned, "otherwise, other countries will be massacred." He insisted that the north and south must stay united for the civil war to end.

And although NAM became the first multilateral organisation to note Iraqi progress on meeting U.N. resolutions to destroy its weapons of mass destruction, Iraq was still unhappy with the final text.

It protested that the reference to its relations with Kuwait, which it occupied between August 1990 and February 1991, failed to make direct mention of the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by a U.N.-imposed embargo.

Egypt had acted as a mediator earlier in the week in a bid to iron out differences between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations.

In their declaration, NAM

(Continued on page 5)

Hizbollahis plot revenge against Israel after strike

BEIRUT (R) — Hizbollah guerrillas, rallying to their war cry of victory or martyrdom, will soon launch a series of attacks against Israel to avenge the bloodiest single blow they received in 12 years of struggle, Muslim sources said.

Israeli aircraft blasted a Hizbollah training camp in the eastern Bekaa Valley early on Thursday, killing at least 26 guerrillas and wounding 70.

It was the highest toll in a single Israeli raid suffered by the Shiite Muslim group formed after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

"It is painful, it is heart-breaking," a Hizbollah official told Reuters. "We are not used to suffering such a high toll or giving away such an easy victory to Israel."

"But this is war, one day is for you, another is against you," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

Muslim sources said Hizbollah was preparing for a series of attacks against Israeli targets not just in South Lebanon but elsewhere.

"They are preparing for a series of qualitative attacks that will not be restricted to South Lebanon," he said, without elaboration.

Hizbollah leaders said last month after helicopter-borne Israeli commandos abducted a guerrilla leader from his home in the Bekaa Valley that the confrontation with the Jewish state would now be expanded beyond South Lebanon.

Hizbollah guerrillas fired salvos of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel after the air raid, defying stern Israeli warnings of harsh retaliation.

Israel, which moved armoured columns to its border with Lebanon late on Thursday, said the barrages violated "understandings" that ended a week-long air, land and sea blitz of South Lebanon last July.

The blitz, in which 150 people, mostly civilians died, ended after U.S. mediation led to vows by Israel and Hizbollah not to attack civilian targets.

Hizbollah has claimed that no understandings were reached but refrained from rocketing northern Israel until Thursday.

The name "Hizbollah" com-

es from a verse in the Holy Koran — "the Party of God, they are victorious."

Inspired by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution in Iran, the group seeks an end to the state of Israel and to curb western influence in Lebanon.

Hizbollah emerged in Lebanon after the 1982 invasion when some 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards moved to the mainly Shiite Bekaa Valley to drive the Israelis out of the country.

The Iranians concentrated on spreading Ayatollah Khomeini's doctrine.

Their recruiting grounds were southern and eastern villages of Shiite Muslims, Lebanon's poorest, most down-trodden population group, and Beirut slums to which many Shiites migrated during the 1975-90 civil war.

Shiites have long been excluded from significant power in Lebanon but are the country's largest sect.

Their southern heartland has taken Israel's military blows for more than two decades. The Shiites mostly suffered silently when the south was hit in the war on Palestinian guerrillas.

But with the 1982 invasion, they began to strike back and tormented the West and Israel with suicide bombings against Western interests, hostagetakings and assassinations.

Suicide truck bombings killed more than 60 people at the U.S. embassy in April 1983. In October of the same year, 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 French paratroopers were killed in suicide bombings of their headquarters.

Fundamentalist sources put the number of Hizbollah fighters at 5,000 and 10,000 followers. The group, armed and financed by Iran, is run by a 12-man leadership, shura or advisory council.

Among all groups in the Arab World, Hizbollah is the most relentlessly opposed to the U.S.-sponsored peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Hizbollah stepped up its raids against Israeli forces as the peace talks began in October 1991 and has escalated its attacks with each subsequent meeting of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Clinton, Pope discuss Middle East

VATICAN CITY (USIA) — President Bill Clinton says he and Pope John Paul II held talks on a wide range of subjects on Thursday 2, including the Middle East, Bosnia, North Korea, Poland and Eastern Europe, and "the need to protect religious freedoms in Asian countries."

The president also told a group of American seminarians that he and the Pope "talked about the upcoming conference in Cairo on world population problems... and how we could come together on a policy that would promote responsible growth of the world's population and still reaffirm our common commitment for the central role of the family in every society."

The following is a transcript of Mr. Clinton's remarks, as released by the White House:

"We had a wonderful discussion about a large number of things. I'm always amazed to find him so vigorously involved in the affairs of the world."

"We talked about the difficulties in Bosnia, as you might imagine. We talked a lot about Poland and Eastern Europe."

We talked at some length about Russia and our emerging relationships there. We talked quite a long while about Asia, about the need to protect religious freedoms in Asian countries, and to promote that."

And I pledged to the pope my best efforts to work with other nations, especially nations in Asia in the cause of religious freedom.

"We talked about the challenges presented at the moment by the dispute we're having with North Korea. We talked at great length about the role of the Islamic states in the future of the world and not only in the Middle East, but elsewhere. We talked a lot about the Middle East, and I thanked His Holiness for the recognition that the Holy See has given to Israel and the support to the peace process."

"We talked about the upcoming conference in Cairo on world population problems, about where we agreed and where we didn't and how we could come together on a policy that would promote responsible growth of the world's population and still reaffirm our common commitment for the central role of the family in every society."

"For those of you who are American seminarians here, I would like to say a special word of appreciation for the role of the Catholic Church in our country. There are 20,000 parishes, 9,000 Catholic elementary and high schools, over 200 Catholic colleges and universities, one of which gave me a degree a long time ago. The thing I have always revered about the Catholic Church was the sense of constancy and commitment of the church in our national life; sense of putting one's life, one's money, one's time where one's stated ideas are."

The Catholic Church has brought together faith and action, word and deed, bringing together people across the lines of rich and poor, of racial lines and other lines perhaps better than any other institution in our society. And I am convinced that it's been able to do that because people like you, those of you who are here as seminarians, have been willing to make the ultimate commitment of your entire lives in the service of that in which you believe."



U.S. President Bill Clinton with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on Thursday (AFP photo)

achieve a level of integrity between what we feel and what we think and what we do. And I stand here today to tell you that, as an American president, I am immensely proud of the commitment you have made."

Hillary and I have a friend whom we treasure greatly who is a Jesuit priest who I met over 30 years ago, who went to law school with us later and who continues to labor to fulfill his vows. And one of my most treasured possessions and I ever received from a personal friend was a letter that he wrote to us after he had been a priest for 20 years, explaining without being at all self-righteous what it had meant to him to have kept his vows for two decades and why he thought in a way he had lived a selfish life because he had achieved a measure of peace and comfort and energy that he could have found in no other way."

It is that feeling that I think ultimately we want for all the people of our nation and all the people of the world. And for your example in taking us in that direction I thank you."

elementary and high schools, over 200 Catholic colleges and universities, one of which gave me a degree a long time ago. The thing I have always revered about the Catholic Church was the sense of constancy and commitment of the church in our national life; sense of putting one's life, one's money, one's time where one's stated ideas are."

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In all secular societies, it is recognized that very few people have the capacity to make a commitment of that depth and constancy. And yet all of us know that, ultimately, the meaning of our lives depend upon the constant effort to

Gunfire, burning tyres outside U.N. in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali gangs loosed off anti-aircraft guns and burned tyres outside Mogadishu's U.N.-protected airport and port on Thursday, residents said.

The latest display of apparent defiance from armed Somalis was put on just three days after the Security Council gave the country another chance at restoring peace by keeping 19,000 U.N. troops there for four months longer.

In the troubled southern port of Kismayu, warlords who led the country into clan feuding, famine and disease three years ago quarrelled at yet another round of peace talks brokered by the United Nations.

Machine-gunfire echoed around Mogadishu and black plumes of smoke rose into the sky from morning after truck drivers hired city youths to protest against new port tariffs introduced at the U.N.-managed facility.

The U.N. wants the tariffs to help the port finance itself, but whenever it has tried to introduce them in recent months, the truck drivers have prevented a return to the days when they were taxed before the government collapsed in January 1991.

Other youths were mobilised by metal scrap dealers to protest at a decree issued by warlord Mohammed Farah Aided that they should not be allowed to export from areas under his control.

Scrap metal was big business in Somalia during the clan wars, when looters tore down everything from the factories built with Western aid money to the bronze statues of Somali heroes.

The man widely blamed for most of the looting was Osman Hassan Ali "Ato" (the thin one) — who is General Aided's right hand man and financier.

Gen. Aided's militia radio also banned the exports of charcoal, which is responsible for much of the deforestation in the arid country, and female goats — which Somalis traditionally do not like selling because they want to maintain breeding stock.

"SNA (Aided's Somali National Alliance) security men, police and port authorities are all required to seize such things as scrap metal, she goats and charcoal. Handle them with great care and then bring the perpetrators to a court of law," said Gen. Aided's broadcast by radio.

Gen. Aided, whose militia battled U.S. troops on the streets of Mogadishu and caused Western forces to pull out in last March, arrived back in May after months abroad and apparently wants to establish a de facto government in his area.

He has been unable to reach agreement with his many rivals despite an accord much-publicised by the U.N. In March which promised a series of talks to set up a new government.

In Kismayu, tensions mounted as Ogadeni clan warlords Aden Abdullahi Nur "Gabo" — "The poet" — and Ahmad Omar Jess condemned peace talks opened by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) last week.

The militias of Mr. Gabo and Mr. Jess fought a series of bloody feuds for control of Kismayu town and the fertile hinterland, but have recently mended relations.

In U.N.-brokered deals, the clans were supposed to agree that the Ogadenis would take control of the farming lands outside Kismayu.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Talabani arrives in northern Iraq

NUSAYBIN, Turkey (AP) — Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, who got stranded in Syria when rival Kurdish groups engaged in fighting in his homeland, arrived Thursday in northern Iraq. Mr. Talabani entered this Kurdish border town from Syria and a Turkish helicopter flew him into Irbil. He was scheduled to meet with the leader of the rival Kurdish group, Massoud Barzani, said Shazad Saib, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) representative in Ankara. Turkey arranged for Mr. Talabani's return to his homeland after the PUK requested help. He was away from northern Iraq since April 10. Fighting broke out between the PUK and forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) a month ago. Turkey is concerned over the political uncertainty in northern Iraq. The Turkish government says it is only to the benefit of Turkey-Kurdish guerrillas, which hold bases in northern Iraq, as part of their fight for autonomy in southeastern Turkey. Iraqi Kurds have had a de facto state in northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf war. Mr. Saib said Mr. Talabani accepted a Turkish offer to hold a joint meeting with Mr. Barzani and Turkish authorities in Ankara next week. The KDP's response was not immediately known. A similar meeting without Mr. Talabani and Mr. Barzani took place in another Turkish border town, Silopi, on Monday. The Turkish authorities have been pushing the PUK and the KDP to reach a lasting political solution. A ceasefire has been holding in the area in northern Iraq since Monday, Mr. Saib said. "I hope there will be no more skirmishes with the return of Mr. Talabani," he said.

Fighting in Turkey leaves 32 dead

ANKARA (AFP) — Fighting in southeast Turkey left 32 people dead within a 24-hour period, including 25 Kurdish rebels, an official statement said Friday. The 21 rebels from the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and three Turkish soldiers were killed in fighting in the regions of Hakkari and Sirnak on the border with Syria, Iraq and Iran, and in Diyarbakir, the main town of southeast Turkey. Meanwhile, four Kurdish rebels and four civilians were killed in a night attack on the village of Gurece, in the region of Bitlis, the Turkish news agency Anatolia reported. A group of armed PKK militants attacked the village Thursday night killing four villagers and wounding eight others. Four rebels were killed when villagers rioted, the news agency said. Since Mid-March Turkish forces have stepped up their military activities in the east and the south of the country to end the PKK rebellion which has caused at least 12,000 deaths since it erupted in August 1984.

Iran slips guards into Bosnia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Iran has smuggled nearly 400 Revolutionary Guards into Bosnia to help Bosnian Muslims organise groups in the former Yugoslavia, U.S. intelligence services said Thursday. "They have either arrived by now or will soon in the former Yugoslavia," an intelligence source told AFP. The focus of their activities will be in the former Yugoslavia. Western Europe is not a target, he added. The presence of several hundred Islamic volunteers fighting with the Bosnian Muslims against the Bosnian Serbs has been known for more than a year. But this is the first time that information about a country sending troops has surfaced. According to the Washington Times between 350 and 400 "instructors" were secretly deployed in May with along with shipments of arms and explosives in order to organise pro-Iranian groups. It is similar to Iranian supported Hizbollah operations in Lebanon. The paper said the guards are being organised out of the Iranian embassy in Zagreb, Croatia. It quoted one source as saying the Iranians risk running into problems however, because the Bosnian Muslims lack Islamic fervour.

BNL insurance bid rejected

ATLANTA (AP) — Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro (BNL) is not entitled to collect on a \$5 million insurance policy covering losses due to dishonesty among Atlanta branch employees who illegally loaned money to Iraq, a judge has ruled. The Italian bank has been trying to recover from Lloyd's of London since August 1989, when Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uncovered billions of dollars in unreported loans that BNL made to exporters dealing with Iraq. The bank, which is owned by the Italian government, insisted that its Rome headquarters was kept in the dark about the irregular Iraqi loans. BNL estimated that it lost \$1.8 billion in the loan scam and filed a claim against its Lloyd's policy. Lloyd's refused to pay, and BNL filed suit in 1993. Lloyd's argued that BNL knew before the policy was issued in December 1988 that its Atlanta employees had engaged in unauthorised lending and forgery. Superior Court Judge Philip Etheridge granted Lloyd's motion for summary judgement at a court hearing Friday. He is expected to sign a written order dismissing the case this week. Mr. Etheridge was the third Atlanta judge to reject BNL's assertion that the fraud in Atlanta caught senior bank officials by complete surprise. U.S. District Judge Marvin Shook reached a similar conclusion in a federal court order in October 1992, and U.S. District Judge Ernest Tidwell wrote a year later that BNL-Rome "knew, should have known, or could have known by the exercise of minimal diligence" of the Atlanta branch's irregular activities.

New Israeli minister takes maverick's post

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's parliament has approved the appointment of Ephraim Sneh, a member of the ruling Labour Party, to the post of health minister vacated three months ago by political maverick Haim Ramon. Mr. Sneh, born in 1944, qualified as a medical doctor and was a career military officer, retiring with the rank of brigadier general in 1983 after serving from 1965 to 1987 as the head of the body administering Israel's occupation of the West Bank. Mr. Ramon, 44, quit as health minister and was kicked out of the Labour Party in February after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the cabinet withdrew their support for his far-reaching health care reform bill. At the beginning of May, Mr. Ramon won nationwide elections for the leader of the Histadrut trade federation, Israel's largest labour union and longtime labour power base.

Khamenei firmly in power five years after Khomeini

By Kianoushe Dorrani
Agence France Presse

TEHRAN — Five years after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, his successor spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has kept a firm hold on political and religious power despite factional quarrels and leadership challenges from the conservative clergy.

"Obeying the guide is the same as obeying the imam," is a slogan often heard in Iran, illustrating efforts by rulers to establish Ayatollah Khamenei as Iran's highest authority and legitimate heir to the founder of the Islamic republic, who died five years ago on June 4.

Ayatollah Khamenei himself has overcome doubts about his ability to replace the late charismatic leader, and at times appears even to have surpassed his predecessor.

In a meeting with the organisers of the anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's death last week, the leader urged them to "avoid exaggerations

and stick to facts" in describing his predecessor.

Ayatollah Khamenei was an unlikely choice to replace Ayatollah Khomeini because of his lack of the required religious credentials.

However, he was unanimously elected as spiritual leader after the country's top-ranking religious officials granted him the honorary title of "ayatallah".

Many observers at the time predicted a diminished power for the new spiritual guide, especially after Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani took over as president.

Spousing liberal political and economic ideas, Mr. Rafsanjani dominated the power scene until 1991, while Ayatollah Khamenei played a behind-the-scenes role as the guardian of revolutionary and Islamic principles.

However, rising social and economic problems which followed Mr. Rafsanjani's market-reform programmes, have prompted the leader to exert more influence in policy-making, with the backing of the conservative-



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

dominated parliament.

In contrast to Ayatollah Khomeini who generally avoided executive functions, Ayatollah Khamenei is openly involved in decision-making and often issues directives or advice to the government.

Unlike the late leader, Ayatollah Khamenei also pays frequent domestic visits

and holds official meetings with foreign dignitaries visiting Iran.

Considered as a fair arbiter among various factions within the political establishment, he has been able to assert himself as a pivotal figure and a source of emulation for many officials, including Rafsanjani.

Government offices are obliged to display the portraits of Ayatollah Khamenei, often along with those of Ayatollah Khomeini, while Mr. Rafsanjani's pictures appear in public at random.

The leader supporters, particularly in the parliament often address him with the title "imam" an honour previously reserved for Ayatollah Khomeini.

But while Ayatollah Khamenei's political power is unchallenged, his holding absolute religious authority is still contested by some clergy in conservative circles, who are opposed to the concept of velayat-e-faqih (religious government).

Velayat, which calls for

one single figure or entity to serve as both religious and political leader in a Shiite Muslim state, has been opposed on grounds that political failures could badly reflect on people's faith in religion.

Differences surfaced late last year when several top officials demanded that Ayatollah Khamenei be chosen as a marja-e-taqid (the source of religious reference in Shiite Islam) while keeping his post as leader.

A leading conservative cleric, Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi, said recently that Ayatollah Khamenei "possessed all the right qualities" to become a marja, but on the condition that he excelled other candidates in religious learnings.

To overcome such opposition, Ayatollah Khamenei has since two years ago undertaken the unprecedented task to reform schools of theology in Iran and tried to bring the traditionally independent institutions under government supervision.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Le Monde Sous Marin
18:00 Dossier De La Semaine
18:30 News in French
18:45 Ushuaia
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
21:10 The Campbells
22:00 News In English
22:30 Feature Film: Tom Alone

PRAYER TIMES

03:52 Fajr
05:26 Sunrise (Samir) Duha
12:33 Dhur
16:14 Asr
19:40 Maghrib
21:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swireh, Tel. 810740
Assessments of God Church, Tel. 637285.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assam International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Lutheran Synod Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Partly cloudy weather conditions will prevail with a chance of thunderous showers and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 14 / 28
Aqaba 22 / 36
Djordan 13 / 30
Jordan Valley 21 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Yusef Rashid 896301
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286
Dr. Walid Maeri 675485
Dr. Mustafa Harzallah 626024
Fina pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Najroukh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisli pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

ZARQA:
Dr. Rateb Atallah 984424
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891238
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 626800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khater Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Malhas, J. Amman 636177
Palestine, St. Michael 661714
St. Michael Hospital 661714
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsen Hospital 662727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 661649
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661757
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77701/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 9161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (09)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
12:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)
12:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:45 London (RJ)
14:55 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Colombo (RJ)
15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:55 Cairo (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
04:35 Aqaba, London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OA)
15:45 Rome (AZ)

19:45 Dubai (EM)
20:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:25 Amsterdam (KL)
06:35 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
09:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)
12:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:45 London (RJ)
14:55 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Colombo (RJ)
15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:55 Cairo (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
04:35 Aqaba, London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OA)
15:45 Rome (AZ)

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 500 / 550
Apricots 900 / 950
Banana 180 / 190
Banana (Khammar) 180 / 190
Cabbage 100 / 110
Carrot 540 / 550
Cherry 950 / 960
Cauliflower 400 / 410
Cucumbers (large) 100 / 110
Cucumbers (small) 100 / 110
Eggplant 200 / 210
Garlic 650 / 660
Lemon 300 / 310
Marrow (large) 120 / 130
Marrow (small) 240 / 250
Mushrooms 400 / 410
Orange 170 / 180
Onion (dry) 180 / 190
Sweet Melon

Majali reiterates respect, support for a free press

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali reiterated the government's respect for a free press, saying that this right, guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution and the National Charter.

In a message to Mahmoud Al Kayed, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Press Foundation (Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times

newspapers), the prime minister said the government is committed to ensuring free expression and to upholding the principles of democracy which have been enhanced by His Majesty King Hussein's policies and wise leadership.

In his message to Mr. Kayed, marking the 24th anniversary of Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Dr. Majali said the press, which is the "fourth estate," plays a key role in creating necessary national public awareness, fostering and enhancing the sense of national belonging among the public and serving national and pan-Arab objectives.

U.S. dollar stabilises in market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. dollar stabilised in the local market at around 702-703 fils last week after a several-year high of 712 fils last month partly attributed to a clamour for dollars against the dinar in the occupied territories and to an international strengthening of the American currency.

Economic analysts said Jordanian commercial banks operating in the occupied territories had the situation under control and could easily meet the market demand there without straining themselves.

The official rate, set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on a daily basis, remained within the 698-702 fils range throughout the period despite a strengthening of the green-

back in the international market.

But dealers sold the dollar for up to 712 fils in mid-May, hiking the rate in line with the world surge in the American currency after the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, increased interest rates, followed by Germany.

Differences between the rates in the Amman market and the occupied territories were negligible, dealers said. At Amman commercial banks which maintain moneychanging departments, the dollar sold for a base rate of 702 fils, but with the addition of commission and other charges the rate was closer to 707 fils, a factor cited by dealers in defending their fees.

Some banks declined to sell dollars altogether, although CBJ regulations bind them to offer foreign exchange to the

public as long as it is available with them.

Licensed moneychangers, who are free to quote their prices within an acceptable level of margin from the CBJ set prices, said the dollar's rise came during the second week of May and remained at 710-712 level until the last week of the month when the market appetite was aptly whetted.

"The situation is quite normal now," said a dealer, noting that the trend among moneychangers in the first few days of the boost was more towards buying than selling, reflecting expectations that the currency was on its way up much higher.

The closing quote for the dollar on Thursday was 702-704 fils at the moneychangers. In downtown Amman, where solo small-time operators buy and sell foreign cur-

rency in the streets, the rate ranged from 705 fils to 710 fils.

In general, bankers said there was no scarcity of foreign exchange in the market and CBJ intervention was not warranted at any point.

The CBJ, as a rule, does not intervene in the market but keeps a close watch on movement. Officials have said that as long as the difference between the officially set rate and the rate quoted by moneychangers in the open market is limited to be few percentage points, there will not be any CBJ intervention.

The currency black market which thrived during 1989 and 1990 is virtually non-existent. A few operators here and there do deal in foreign exchange, but always under some kind of arrangement with licensed moneychangers for legal cover.

Writers', journalists' unions condemn refusal to hold ceremony for assassinated colleague

By Karonza Jadoun
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The cancellation of a ceremony to commemorate the late Jordanian journalist, Hanna Muqbel, came as a surprise to cultural milieu in Amman.

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation was to host the symposium last Monday, but, as regulations stipulate, it first had to request the permission of the Interior Ministry. The foundation received a refusal from the Amman Governorate three days before the scheduled date of the ceremony.

"We received the decision, but no reasons were provided," Basem Khouri, an employee at the foundation said. The Union of Arab Writers (UAW), the Union of Arab Journalists (UAJ) and the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA), the organisers of the symposium, condemned the decision as groundless and issued a statement to this effect.

UAW Secretary General Fakhri Kawa told the Jordan Times that he spoke to the governor, but was given no reason for the decision.

JWA President Mu'nis Razzaz said he wrote to the interior minister to complain of the decision, but also to no

avail. "Not a single reason was given. It is a position we are not comfortable with. Supposedly, holding a ceremony of this kind is something normal," Mr. Kawa said.

Director of the Arab Writers Union Nazih Abu Nidal said the late journalist, a leftist and pan-Arabist, was the secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union and of Jordanian nationality, "so it is normal for his relatives, friends and colleagues to commemorate him."

"There was another ceremony to commemorate the late Jordanian writer Mahmoud Seif Addin Al Irani, just a day before our scheduled event, and it was not cancelled," Mr. Abu Nidal said.

Mr. Razzaz condemned the decision and said that the late "Hanna Muqbel was a very well-known journalist and His Majesty King Hussein himself expressed his condolences over his death. Hanna has so many admirers, that's why we expected so many fans and chose Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation instead of the JWA hall to hold the ceremony."

Mr. Razzaz told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview that he was astonished, adding that this is the first time he

knows of that a request from Shoman Foundation to hold such an event was refused. "Yet," he added, "there were dozens of occasions when other governors acted in the same way. That is why we issued a statement to protest such anti-democratic acts."

Amman Governor Tal'at Nawaiseh told the Jordan Times "there is no reason to commemorate someone after 10 years. Furthermore, anniversaries are only for national occasions."

When told that the UAW, the UAJ and the JWA condemned the refusal, he said that "it was not them who asked for the permission, it was Abdul Hameed (Shoman) Foundation."

As for the Ministry of Interior, its secretary general, Khalil Khreizat, said that the ministry had no idea about the issue.

"Amman Governorate is the only party concerned" said Mr. Khreizat.

Hanna Muqbel was a Jordanian journalist of Palestinian origin who was assassinated 10 years ago in Cyprus at the age of 41. He also worked for Al Dustour daily and was active in Palestinian journalism.

Ghanem Zreikat, a close friend of Mr. Muqbel and now deputy secretary general of the

Union of Arab Journalists, told the Jordan Times that Mr. Muqbel knew his foes, and everyone knows who killed him, but no one was arrested for the murder.

Sources, who preferred anonymity, told the Jordan Times that they suspected that the assassins of Mr. Muqbel belong to the same organisation that murdered Jordanian Embassy First Secretary Na'eb Maaytah on Jan. 29 in Beirut.

Messrs Kawa, Razzaz, Abu Nidal and Zreikat, as well as Najj Aloush, Rashad Abu Shawer and Mr. Muqbel's daughter, Salam, were scheduled to speak at the ceremony.

The speakers expressed their regret saying that such "a decision to refuse permission to hold the symposium is not in harmony with democratic aspirations."

"This negative attitude is against all martyrs of word who defend human rights for freedom and life... it is a reward for the assassin, to halt us from condemning the bloody violence against intellectuals..." the unions' statement said.

Mr. Zreikat told the Jordan Times that Ministry of Culture Secretary General Muhammad Najj Al Amairh promised that the symposium will be held at a later date.

UNRWA ends 2-day donor-host meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Peace Implementation Programme (PIP) is already showing tangible results, especially in the Gaza Strip, where socio-economic conditions are so precarious, according to UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilar Turkmen.

In remarks to delegates attending a meeting of major donor and host countries in Amman which concluded Thursday, Mr. Turkmen reported that donor countries had provided about \$85 million for PIP projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and about \$10 million for projects in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

The Agency launched PIP three weeks after the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on Sept. 13 1993.

PIP aims to support the peace process by assisting the social and economic advancement of Palestine refugees through upgrading infrastructure, including refugee shelters and agency installations such as schools and clinics, as well as creating jobs.

The commissioner-general said that the agency's continuing efforts to promote self-reliance among refugee communities throughout UNRWA's fields of operation "would be one of the most significant and lasting services which UNRWA could provide to Palestinians, regardless of where they live."

During the meeting, representatives attending the Working Group on UNRWA's financing discussed the agency's 1994 shortfall in its regular budget and suggested action UNRWA might take to reduce the deficit, said an UNRWA statement, without elaborating.

Mr. Turkmen had earlier reported that the agency's projected 1994 deficit of \$21 million in its regular budget assumed that the agency maintained the cutbacks imposed in 1993 and did not allow for any growth in services in 1994.

He explained to representatives that "in order for UNRWA to meet long-standing performance targets and ensure that the quality of services remains stable in the coming years," the agency needed \$21 million to avoid draining its working capital in 1994 and an additional \$22 million to maintain the standard of UNRWA services, making a total budget deficit of \$43 million for 1994.

Interior minister meets with Iraqi president in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Thursday conferred in Baghdad with visiting Jordanian Minister of Interior Salah Hamad following official talks between Mr. Hamad and his Iraqi counterpart Wataban Al Hassan concerning bilateral cooperation in security affairs.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Mr. Hamad later as saying that Jordan's support for the Iraqi people was an expression of solidarity in the face of the current circumstances.

According to INA, Mr. Hamad said the U.N. imposed embargo on Iraq was no longer justified because the Iraqi government has proved its commitment to all U.N. Security Council resolutions and has implemented them.

Mr. Hamad toured several religious and development projects in Iraq and paid tribute to the Iraqi people's efforts after the Gulf war to rebuild their nation.

The Iraqi minister of interior paid tribute to Jordan's support in the face of what he termed plots directed against

the Iraqi people and Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, said the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra quoted Mr. Al Hassan as describing Jordan's stand as honourable, and the Iraqi-Jordanian relations as distinguished in all fields.

Mr. Hamad, who was accompanied on the trip to Iraq by a delegation from his own ministry and the Public Security Department (PSD) returned to Amman Friday evening.

Health Ministry turns back JD 500,000 coffee import

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Health Ministry last week aborted an attempt by a local merchant to market JD 500,000 of contaminated coffee beans in the Kingdom and forced a vessel laden with the merchandise to leave Aqaba harbour.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas told the Jordan Times Friday that the merchant, whose name he declined to release, had tried all means and various forms of pressure on the government to bring in the shipment.

"We had examined a sample of the coffee beans at our main laboratories in Aqaba; the beans had very bad smell, and were found to be contaminated. The lab issued a certificate urging the port authorities not to allow the shipment to be unloaded," Dr. Malhas said.

The ministry regularly examines samples of all types of food entering the country, but has intensified inspections recently, assisted by the modern laboratory facilities in the port city, the minister said, who added that the coffee bean shipment would have been sufficient for Jordan's needs for at least six months.

The local authorities last month announced a 280 fils

per kilogramme hike in the price of coffee in Jordan because of the rise in prices on the world market, said the minister. He added that it is in such a climate, when prices rise and commodities are in short supply, that the so-called "garbage market" thrives, with some merchants seeking to market contaminated merchandise and earning a fortune in the process.

Dr. Malhas said that at one stage he had to send a sample of the rejected shipment together with the laboratory report to the Prime Ministry in order to make his point clear to the prime minister and the government, who had been exposed to enormous pressure on the part of the local wealthy merchant.

Stressing that the Health Ministry was pursuing all avenues and doing all that was in its power to prevent underhanded dealings in matters related to public health, Dr. Malhas said that a few days ago the health authorities in Aqaba had to destroy a contaminated shipment of tomato paste.

A total of 1,480 bags of 200 kilos each were packed on board a vessel that arrived in Aqaba recently, and samples of the paste were tested at the laboratories in the usual procedure required, the minister said.

It was discovered, said Dr. Malhas, that the shipment had originated in Jordan where the paste was first produced in 1992. But the product had spoiled because of unorthodox storage facilities or perhaps due to the heat, according to Dr. Malhas.

He said the shipment was destined for an importer in Italy who, after examining the samples, selected part of the merchandise and returned the rest to Aqaba.

When asked about measures to start Saturday monitoring water springs and water tankers selling drinking water, the minister said that the process will continue intensively, until the end of June. But, he said, the health authorities will continue spot checks throughout the year.

The head of the Health Department in the Amman area, Qais Halaweh, had told the Jordan Times that a similar campaign launched last April found 28 water tanker owners in violation of safety standards. But the minister Friday said that the number of violators had risen to 35 by end of last week.

Those and other violators are fined, but stricter measures could be imposed and their licences could be revoked should the violation be repeated, explained the minister.

German state minister ends visit Talks centre on bolstering economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A German delegation, led by Dieter Spör, minister of economic affairs in the state of Baden Württemberg, Friday concluded a three-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

Upon ending his talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday, Dr. Spör said he has reiterated Germany's determination to continue to provide the Kingdom with all forms of assistance and to further bolster bilateral relations, especially in tourism and economic affairs.

"I also voiced Bonn's intention to exert efforts through the European Union for the allocation of more European economic assistance to Jordanian development schemes," said the state minister.

He said that in talks with Jordanian ministers over the past two days the two sides agreed on matters related to the transfer of modern technology from German institutions to small and medium size Jordanian projects, and agreed to maintain open channels of communication between both countries' firms and business executives.

The German state minister and his team had earlier met with Minister of Industry and

Trade Rima Khalaf and Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and discussed Jordanian-German economic and trade links.

Dr. Khalaf was reported by the Jordan News Agency, Petra,

as proposing the creation of a higher German-Jordanian business council that could channel information and help exchange ideas about investment projects in Jordan.

Faces of Jordan

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faces of Jordan are so varied and interesting, but are not represented as much as landscapes in local art. It was not the case though at the photography contest held at the U.S. embassy in Amman, whose title, "Faces of Jordan," points to the organisers' interest.

Exhibiting in the hall of the American Cultural Centre, the almost 50 contestants had focused their lenses on the human expression, immortalising expressions, glimpses, feelings, postures and gestures.

At the awards ceremony, Counsellor for Press and Cultural Affairs at the embassy Peter Kovach gave the rationale behind the choice of theme and art medium.

"Photography is a medium in a place like Jordan with such promising social developments; the art of photography should thus be encouraged," said Mr. Kovach before honouring the winners in the presence of Minister of Culture Amin Mahmoud.

Young and old, rich and poor, men and women, happy and sad, the "faces" stare at the viewer from black and white or coloured frames telling the story of a life or of a community.

Winner of the first prize in the professional category was Yousef Al Allan, our colleague from the sister Arabic newspaper, Al Ra'i.

The unsuspecting winner was all smiles and "very, very happy." His winning photo, titled "Tafa'oul (optimism)" is that of an old man with a checkered headress covering his white hair, a wrinkled wise face and eyes looking wistfully into the horizon.

The judges panel, whose job was surely not easy when seeing the number of photos they had to view and their quality, was made up of professional photographer Bill Lyons and painter Ali Jaberi.

Their comments on the chosen photos justify their options and show professionalism. Mr. Allan's work, for example, was characterised as "an entirely self-sufficient image,



well-cropped, incisive character study."

First prize in the amateur category went to Ra'ed Ammoun from Irbid, whose photos of Irbid citizens are a "lucid, insightful, penetrating study" and which have been recommended as a "student's work for its sincerity, use of black and white, sensitivity in composition and cultural context — informative in a way that just faces are not and not overfamiliar."

Second prize in the amateur category went to Rami Sajdi for "The Azameh Queen," an "intensely empathetic and unflinching portrait which bridges tremendous gaps... a very fine answer to a search," as the

panel judged it.

Muwaqaf Al Sheikh received the second prize in the professional category for an untitled "delightful, fresh, spontaneous, refreshing sense of landscape and cultural context."

The third prize was given to three third-year students at the Faculty of Architecture of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) for a group of nine photos.

Their works were recommended for their "social concern, rare as a photographic subject," and were found to be the "only competition entry with direct social application, not aesthetically concerned, but photography for its purely

investigative functions."

The students, Nimer Tawfiq, Jawad Sulaiman and Samer Can'an, are active in a photo club at the university, but are at their first public exhibition.

"We are very happy as it is the first entry for us, our first attempt and we won the third prize," said Nimer.

An honourable mention was granted to Haltham Jweinat for his "Al Manqala," a "successful, humorous, dignified photo effortlessly accomplishing the theme of the competition with no intrusive peripheral distractions."

The photos will be exhibited until the end of June. They provide a refreshing change of art lovers this summer.

WHAT'S GOING ON FILMS

★ Chinese film entitled "People, Spirits, and Emotions" at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Art exhibition of Chinese paintings at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman.

★ Photography exhibit entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the Americana Center.

★ Exhibition by artist Issam Tantawi at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhis (Tel. 720677).

★ Exhibition by artist Abeer Bawab at the Royal Cultural Centre.



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Jordanian Perspective

A setback in the making

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THE WAR of words over Palestinian self-rule and the status of Jerusalem between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is the best indicator yet of the numerous well-known problems that the two sides will have to confront and settle before it could be said that the Arabs and the Israelis are on their way to a just, comprehensive and durable peace. But what we Muslims and Christians risk in the meantime is a further setback in our quest for our rights in Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin's persistent attacks and criticism of the way Mr. Arafat and his aides in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have been building Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho reflect an anxiety to ensure that the PLO-orchestrated autonomy falls very much in line with Israeli designs. Obviously the Israeli prime minister is seeking to preempt any success of the autonomy beyond the limitations set by Israel with a view of diluting the international impressions of Palestinian abilities to take care of themselves in the long run.

Among the factors that help Mr. Rabin and his Labour Party in achieving that objective is the split in the Palestinian ranks and the way the PLO leadership is handling self-rule. Mr. Rabin's pointed reminders of Palestinian shortcomings in the autonomy arrangements are not helpful suggestions directed at Mr. Arafat and the PLO inasmuch as they are a message to the international community that it is only a matter of time the Palestinians fall flat on their face while grappling with their newfound but limited freedoms in Gaza and Jericho and prove to be a burden for donors.

The Israeli strategy, played out in public as well as behind the diplomatic scene, has already firmed up delays in the channelling of international financial assistance to the Palestinians. And this does not exactly bode well for the Israeli desire to let the Palestinians see tangible improvements in their standards of living. The net result of the Israeli move could very well end up in a dismal failure of the "self-rule experiment" — as Israeli and American officials call it in private — an eventuality that Mr. Rabin and his aides will be better off taking into consideration while planning their future moves.

At the same side, the bright side of the equation is that

Israeli criticism of Palestinian self-rule could contribute to raising PLO efficiency, something we as Arabs look forward to. Hopefully, the PLO leadership would rise up to the challenge of the day and prove the Israelis wrong.

It is totally a different kettle of fish when it comes to Jerusalem. Here, Mr. Rabin is obviously using Mr. Arafat as a smokescreen on several fronts, including the internal political tug-of-war between the Labour and Likud.

It was no coincidence that a Labour Party "masterplan" to divide the Holy City into religious "zones" was "leaked" to the Israeli media. The "masterplan," according to reports, calls for five Jewish, three Muslim and two Christian "zones" in Jerusalem without jeopardising the status quo and allowing Israel to continue to reign supreme and claim Jerusalem as its "eternal, indivisible" capital.

On the one hand, Mr. Rabin wants to establish in the international psyche that, regardless of the Sept. 13 declaration of principles Israel signed with the PLO in Washington, the Jewish state never entertained any serious consideration of discussing the status of Jerusalem on the basis of the historic and religious rights of Muslims and Christians in the Holy City. Instilling an inherent feeling among all those who are anxious to ensure that Muslim and Christian rights are respected in Jerusalem that Israel never accepted the concept of an arrangement based on those rights in the corner-stone of Mr. Rabin's strategy on the external front.

On the internal front, Mr. Rabin, mindful of the sentiments of the Israeli constituency, is using the war of words with Mr. Arafat over "jihad" to liberate Jerusalem to tell the Israeli voters that a Labour-led Israeli government would never let go of absolute control over Jerusalem and that, if anything, the autonomy arrangement with the Palestinians would only consolidate the Jewish state's designs and its claims to the Holy City.

That accounts for Israel's dedicated campaign to prevent the Palestinians from running autonomy from Jerusalem and new questions being raised over the very presence of self-rule administrators in the Orient House in Arab Jerusalem. Probably, the next Israeli step is to close down the Orient House and send a message to the electorate that self-rule or no

self-rule Palestinians will not enjoy any "privileges" in Jerusalem.

Given the running battle with Likud and its new leader, Ariel Sharon, Mr. Rabin, has to reinforce this sentiment among Israeli voters, and he is doing it through Mr. Arafat and the Israeli media.

Where does that leave the Arabs, Muslims and Christians who are entertaining hopes that somehow Israel could be brought to heel sooner or later into discussing the status of Jerusalem and accepting Muslim and Christian rights there?

I have no doubt in my mind that the Labour's "masterplan" is real and the reports that appeared in the media are largely accurate and that Mr. Rabin intends to implement it as soon as possible.

A careful look at what is available of the "masterplan" clearly indicates that it envisages segregating the Muslim and Christian communities in such a way that those two communities would be led to a loggerhead while the Jews would be assured of absolute control of Jerusalem.

We in Jordan, led by the Hashemites — the rightful guardians of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem and who have vowed to defend the rights with blood — have been calling for a substantial and meaningful Christian-Muslim dialogue which, among other things, will have Jerusalem as a priority. Good ground has indeed been covered, but not enough. For some reason or the other, the pledges that international Muslim and Christian leaders make in dedicated forums are not translated into action, and we are left with a feeling that we would still be pressing an apathetic world for action in the year 2000.

In the meantime, the ongoing Rabin-Arafat clash over Jerusalem is helping Israel build more stones in its already fortified grip on Jerusalem.

It is quite clear that regardless of the developments on the Israeli-Palestinian front and the postponement of debate on Jerusalem under the Israel-PLO accord, we Muslims and Christians have to come up with a clear strategy to counter Israel's exploitation of our own inaction. Otherwise, all our cries and demands will go down in the clamour of the deliberate diversionary tactics planned and executed by Israel.

Court for the constitution

THE ISSUE of whether the Pharmacists Association is constitutional or not is currently under review at the Higher Court of Justice. Another issue, whether forming a teachers' union would be constitutional or not, is being reviewed by another body, the Higher Council. This confusion has arisen from the fact that Jordan has no independent judicial constitutional court, like the case is in other countries, for example Egypt.

The former legal issue, that of the Pharmacists Association, surfaced when the union filed a case against the Minister of Health for his handling of government-employed pharmacists. The minister reacted by contesting the constitutionality of the association itself. According to the Minister of Justice, Taher Hikmat, Jordan's Higher Court of Justice does not look into the constitutionality of laws per se, rather, it looks into decisions that are issued under law that can be unconstitutional. Mr. Hikmat had said in an article published in November 1992 that the court, therefore, "would only contest the decision or the procedure issued in accordance to a law that contradicts the constitution." The court, Mr. Hikmat concluded, cannot annul a valid law, even if it concluded that it was unconstitutional.

The second body that can decide if a law is constitutional or not is the Higher Council. This council is made up of nine members, four senators and five most senior judges. For it to pass resolutions, the council needs a majority of six votes. This council is entrusted, in addition to trying ministers for any wrongdoing while serving in office, to "the interpretation of the articles of the constitution if required to by the Cabinet or a majority decision by any of the two Houses of Parliament."

When the last parliament demanded the government legislate for forming a teacher's union, the government, fearful of a political group dominating the association, asked the council to rule whether a teachers' union was constitutional or not. The council met then but its vote was split five to four on the issue, thus failing to reach a decision.

The issue of whether trade unions should be involved in politics has resurfaced since the Prime Minister, Abdul Salam Majali, took office last year. The constitution does not explicitly state that Jordan can form unions. But it does state, in article 16, that Jordanians have the right to form societies and political parties.

Constitutional experts, including the former Chief Justice Najib Rashdan, believe the term societies does include trade and professional unions. He argues that the right had been acquired since the first trade union was established in the 1950s.

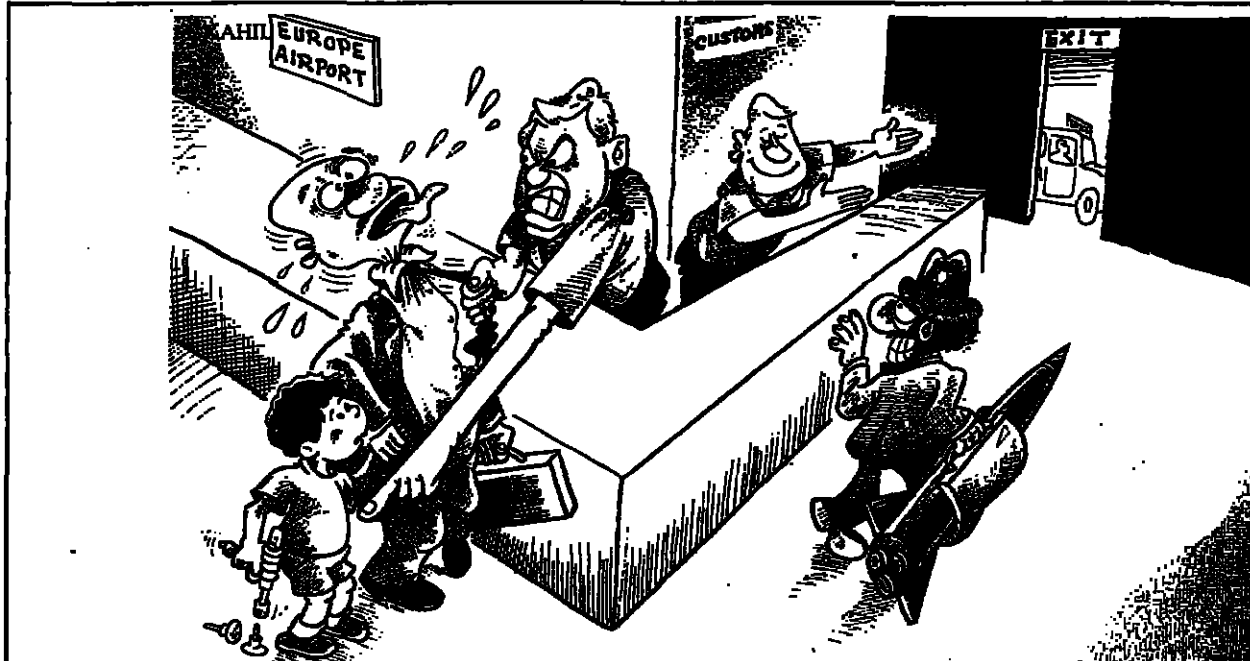
The controversy though points to the need of a new formula to settle all disputes relating to the subject, most appropriately through a constitutional amendment.

The higher council as it is made up now, though constitutional, is not judicial. The fact that four out of its nine members are senators makes it half political and half judicial. That seems to necessitate the creation of constitutional court or entrusting this task to the Higher Court of Justice. That, though, requires a constitutional amendment, which is not, unfortunately, about to be enacted.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour strongly criticised a decision for moving the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) from Amman to Beirut as an unjustified action resulting from a hostile political stand on the part of certain Arab states. Taher Al Adwan said that it is true that the decision was taken by a majority vote, but that vote was that of those states which harbour enmity towards the Kingdom for its national and neutral stand during the Gulf crisis. During its stay in Amman, ESCWA proved that it is far better functioning in the Kingdom than elsewhere in the Arab states largely due to the stability and security which this country enjoys, he said. Amman has proved to be the most eligible venue for various regional and international agencies as it lies in the heart of the Arab World and continues to host and to provide services to numerous organisations, continued Adwan. For this reason, said the writer, Jordan deserves support not enmity for its national stand vis-a-vis the Israeli designs and for its continued support and help to the Palestinian people.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily urged the concerned authorities to widen the Amman-Madaba road so as to cater to the ever growing volume of traffic and prevent road accidents. Nazih Qousus said that the road was built years ago when a relatively small number of vehicles was using it, but with the developments in economic, transport and social fields in the areas between Amman and Madaba and in the light of the increased traffic along the road between the two cities, the time has come for the local authorities to think about ways to ease traffic congestion and widen the road, said the writer. He said over the past year tragic accidents occurred on this road with heavy loss of life and property. He said the Ministries of Tourism and Transport ought to join hands with the Ministry of Public Works to ensure the implementation of this very vital project that would positively contribute towards the development of the regions in the southern Amman areas.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Yemenis could use a truce; Israel's actions bely its words

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE DEVELOPMENT in Yemen and other Middle Eastern issues dominated topics discussed by the local Arabic press in the past week. Domestic affairs and pan-Arab questions were all correct.

Yemen is not in need of a river of blood and devastation to prove that Arab unity is feasible, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour newspaper.

The Yemenis should take a lesson from the civil wars that occurred elsewhere in the Arab World and should realise that war can only breed hatred that does not contribute to unity or to solidarity, said the writer. Should the war continue the situation in Yemen would be more or less like that in Yugoslavia and Somalia with foreign forces intervening in the country's affairs said the writer.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, criticised the Arab League for referring the Yemeni crisis to the United Nations, demanding that it interfere to stop the fighting there.

These contacts raise our anxiety and suspicions because they mean a call for the internationalisation of the situation in the Yemen, said the writer.

The Arab League's call to the United Nations is an invitation for the foreign powers to interfere in Yemen's internal affairs and would lead to the shedding of more blood, he said.

Foreign intervention is bound to be bloodier than that which occurred in Somalia and Yugoslavia and would never contribute towards safeguarding Yemen's unity, he said.

Huda Fakhouri, a columnist in Al Ra'i, compared the fighting in Yemen to the collapse of Ma'arib Dam in the pre-Islamic era, noting that the devastation is so heavy in both cases, thus retarding development for decades to come. The writer said that it is strange to see the Yemeni leaders resorting

to fratricidal conflict after learning of the outcome of similar strife that occurred in Lebanon, Somalia and Yugoslavia. But the writer added that the scenario in Yemen is definitely of the making of the major power assisted by their allies in their region and motivated by the foreign powers' interests in the Yemeni oil wealth.

Al Ra'i paper said in an editorial that a ceasefire to give the two sides a chance for dialogue is badly required and such truce can by no means adversely affect Yemen's unity. The truce is beneficial for the people of Yemen to take stock of what has happened to their country and to urge their respective leaders to opt for dialogue and end the war, said the paper. The leaders of the two warring sides should opt for democracy and seek the views of their people concerning the fighting in their land, demanded the paper.

Al Dustour daily described Israel's raid at Hizbollah's training positions in Lebanon Thursday as a barbaric crime that resulted in the death of scores of people.

The aggression on Lebanon is bound to delay any peace efforts along the Israeli-Lebanese track and would lay obstacles in the path of peace in general, said the paper. The timing of this crime, which coincided with renewed efforts for the resumption of the peace process, leaves no doubt that Israel does not wish to see any peace established in the region or to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 on its withdrawal from Lebanon, said the daily.

By committing a new aggression against Lebanon, Israel is making it clear to the world that it is not concerned with any peace with its northern neighbour whose water continues to be stolen by the Jewish state, said Al Ra'i daily. Peace and crime can never meet and aggression can never contribute to the

success of peace talks along any of the Arab-Israeli tracks, added the daily. Words of condemnation on the part of the world community can by no means reduce the sufferings of the people, and only the implementation of U.N. resolutions and the end of occupation can bring back justice and stability to the whole region, said the paper.

Salah Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, tackled the scheduled June 6 meeting in Washington by the U.S.-Israeli-Jordanian joint committee describing the meeting as a new effort to give impetus to the whole peace process.

The writer said he was optimistic that the success of this meeting would open the way for successes along the Jordanian-Israeli track and would pave the ground for a settlement of the Jordanian demand for the return of its occupied territories in the southern regions of the Dead Sea.

Salah Jarrar, a columnist in Al Ra'i, criticised the United States for supplying long range war planes to Israel, saying that this would further enhance Israel's aggressive capabilities in the region. The writer said that the Americans intend to keep the Jewish state the dominant force in the region. Any peace that does not entail stripping the Zionists of their war arsenal can have no chance to survive, he added.

Mazen Hammad, a columnist in Al Dustour, considered Turkey's decision to resume border trade with Iraq as a welcome development that should be copied by all Arab states. The writer said that they are signs in the United Nations that the sanctions on Iraq are to be lifted with Russia, France and China supporting the lifting of the embargo and it is hoped that the Arab states would take the lead in ending the sanctions and force the world to open up trade links with

the Iraqi people who have suffered for so long. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation have issued a joint statement warning against the outbreak of wide scale famine in Iraq as a result of the continued embargo, said the writer, who added that the time has come for the Arabs and the world community to seriously discuss the lifting of the sanctions and end human suffering.

Nazih, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the school are about to close their doors for the summer holiday sending away hundreds of thousands of students home and into the streets, with most of them expected to be idle for at least two months. Judging from past years experiences, idleness leads to trouble on the part of the youth who tend to cause disturbance to their districts in different forms or more serious incidents through quarrels in the streets where they play football and endanger themselves, said the writer. He said that the ministries of youth and education should join hands to find a suitable solution to this problem through opening school yards and recreational centres for the youths activities.

Ahmad Husban, a columnist in Al Dustour, said domestic tourism is not successful largely due to the poor services at the tourist sites and the exorbitant prices charged by hotels. The writer said that many tourist and travel agents succeed in their business by despatching groups for a week's holiday abroad largely because they get reasonable rates. He said the cost of one day and night at a hotel in Aqaba is equivalent to three in any other Middle Eastern country. The writer suggested that special rates and package trips be worked out by the private and public tourism sectors to encourage Jordanians to visit sites in their own country.

A lethargic Hong Kong

By David Stamp
Reuters

HONG KONG — Five years ago, a million Hong Kong people stood up to be counted in support of those killed in China for demanding freedom and democracy.

But now few in the British colony will stand up and be counted even for their own freedoms as Hong Kong heads for reunion with China in 1997, democracy campaigners say.

"I sense a kind of lethargy arising from a feeling of inadequacy," said legislator Jimmy McGregor.

"Many, many in Hong Kong are now going over enthusiastically to... cooperating with China," he said. "Anybody who says differently gets clobbered or is out."

In 1989 the student protesters on Beijing's Tiananmen Square aroused strong support in Hong Kong. When the Chinese army crushed the protests and killed many on June 4, the colony went into deep shock.

A million people marched on China's de facto embassy in the colony and attitudes on both sides changed forever.

Beijing, which a decade ago promised Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy in 1997, began to regard it as a hotbed of subversion that needed to be tightly controlled after the handover.

Hong Kong people, on the other hand, began to lose faith in the "one country, two systems" formula enshrined in the 1984 Sino-British joint declaration. Those who could get a foreign passport, and candidates demanding democratic reform swept elections to the colonial legislature in 1991.

Five years after Tiananmen, the pro-democracy camp refuses to give up. Protesters regularly march to the local headquarters of the official Xinhua news agency, which serves as China's consulate in the colony.

Only this week, six television journalists resigned in protest against alleged self-censorship of a documentary on the Beijing killings. The gesture, which probably means their careers are over, worked. The ATV station said the programme would be aired.

But the effort to promote democracy is no longer a mass movement. Marches on Xinhua draw small crowds and a rally to commemorate the dead of 1989 is expected to attract at most 30,000 on Saturday, not a million. Only

12,000 came last year. Pro-democracy legislators are vocal but remain a minority because of Hong Kong's system of limited democracy, which favours pro-business conservatives opposed to confronting Beijing.

In a blow to Hong Kong morale, China has made it clear that when it takes over it will overturn Governor Chris Patten's reforms aimed at making the legislature more accountable.

Legislator Emily Lau says little momentum remains. "To some people (the memory) of course is important," she said. "But in terms of it becoming a driving force for the community in struggling for more democracy, in struggling to maintain the rule of law, our freedoms, I don't think it's there."

Rising living standards due to a boom in China have soothed worries for a while at least. "People feel the immediate future is still bearable, but of course if you ask them what's going to happen in two or three years' time, nobody knows," she said.

Tsang Yok-Sing, who leads the pro-Beijing Democratic Alliance Party, admits he wept after the June 4 killings. But he says what has happened since in China — an economic boom — is far preferable to the fate he says befall the Soviet Union, political liberalisation, economic collapse and disintegration of the state.

"I would... take a pragmatic view," he said. "At heart, many people in Hong Kong have a... feeling that it is fortunate that China has not gone the same way that Russia did."

But Mr. McGregor, who is increasingly at odds with the general chamber of commerce he represents in the legislature, bemoaned the failure of businessmen to offer China sound advice.

"People are becoming very reluctant to speak out," he said. "I wish people here would speak up more strongly, not necessarily against China but to say what Hong Kong people think."

But China, which has recruited 150 advisers in Hong Kong plus a committee to prepare for the handover, hears only what it wants to hear, he said.

"China will never select those who criticise," said Mr. McGregor. "The advisers will never provide a range of opinions, they will only provide one opinion."

Save water ...
every drop
counts!

Sales tax takes effect

(Continued from page 1)

vising the implementation of an economic restructuring programme for the Kingdom. It also cleared the way for an IMF certification necessary for the government to launch debt rescheduling talks with the Paris Club.

Despite the government explanations, the overriding feeling among consumers is scepticism generated by the two-and-a-half-year debate on the controversial levy.

However, the analysts and officials expect the scepticism to make way for welcome once the tax takes hold and is translated into some price benefits in the market.

"If the market forces opt to pass on the three per cent cut to the ultimate consumer then there will be a slight decline in prices of those items on which the rate of consumption tax was 10 per cent," said Fahed Fanek, a noted economic analyst and columnist.

But it is unlikely that retail outlets might do so, businessmen say. "It is an unwritten rule in the market that consumer prices do not go down once they go up," said a importer and retailer. "No one will be willing to take a chance and reduce prices when there is a feeling in the market that things are not clear."

The comment reflected a widely-heard complaint that the sales tax law, which cleared Parliament and was enacted on June 1 with the issuance of a Royal decree last month, was ambiguous and that merchants did not know how to handle it.

The local press carried commentaries critical of the levy, mostly quoting business circles arguing that the government should clarify the law and how it is being applied.

But, according to Dr. Fanek and government officials, the law is relatively uncomplicated and that its implementation only involves importers and producers.

"Others have to do nothing

'Jerusalem issue' could spark war

(Continued from page 1)

and there are no procedures involving the consumer or the retailer," said Dr. Fanek.

Dr. Fanek agreed in general with officials that there is little justification to complaints of ambiguity, pointing out that the tax will be levied at the points of entry to the Kingdom on imported products wherever applicable and at the departure points to the local market at factories whose annual turnover exceeds JD 100,000.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoah has said that the government intends to release a booklet explaining how the tax would be levied at the various points of entry into the market. The department which used to handle the consumption tax at the Ministry of Finance will be in charge of the sales tax.

A government official who preferred anonymity said: "It is simply naive and arguing for argument's sake that the law is ambiguous since the procedures of collecting the levy are simple and straightforward."

The official said the sales tax would be collected on imported products as applicable along with the customs duties and other levies and the importer has to maintain a record of the levy to avoid double taxation for producers who use imported raw material in their products.

Accounts will be adjusted on annual basis and those who paid the tax on imports will be allowed to write off the payments against the net sales tax they pay for the products leaving their premises to the local market. Exports are exempt.

Dr. Fanek said he had expected the government to give it one or two months before actually enforcing the sales tax. "But obviously the government thought that the law could be abused by some circles and could spark more controversies than it could handle, and hence the enactment of the law as of June 1," he said.

Crown Prince, Princess return

(Continued from page 10)

seminar on the Middle East peace process and addressed a conference organised by the London-based Inter-Parliamentary Council Against Anti-Semitism.

In his lecture at the seminar on the peace process, organised by the Royal United Services Institute, the Crown Prince said the "worst" seems to be over in Arab-Israeli peace talks, but much remained to be done in the search for a just, durable and comprehensive settlement.

In his address at the Inter-Parliamentary Council Against Anti-Semitism, Crown Prince Hassan called for the establishment of a body to fight "Islamophobia" in Europe. On May 25, the Crown Prince took a leading role in launching an inter-faith declaration on a Code of Business ethics, which, he said, would seek to "dispel misconception, to go beyond the easy stereotype, to achieve a real dialogue on the basis of the three monotheistic religions' moral, ethical and spiritual values."

The Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath were received upon their arrival in Amman by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, other Royal Family members, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, speakers of the two Houses of Parliament, Cabinet members and senior officials.

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani also returned from London on the same plane.



A Lebanese woman reads the Koran to her children in their South Lebanon home as Israeli planes carry out intensive reconnaissance flights over the region (AFP photo)

Israel masses troops on Lebanon border

(Continued from page 1)

"The resistance will respond... regardless of the timing," the group's secretary-general Hassan Nasrallah, told some 15,000 people taking part in a funeral procession for eight of the slain guerrillas in Beirut's southern suburbs.

"The mujahideen (holy warriors) are still here. Yesterday we had tens of suicide attackers, today we have hundreds, we have thousands," added the black-turbaned sheikh to chants of "Zionists wait, wait, Hizbollah are coming."

The U.S. ambassador to Lebanon warned that the escalation of violence between Israel and the Hizbollah threatened the Middle East peace process.

Mark Hambley was speaking after a meeting with President Elias Hrawi "to discuss the best ways to try to calm down" the tension that has gripped Lebanon after the Israeli air raid.

"Once violence is spreading, there is a threat to the peace process," Mr. Hambley said.

The United States was in contact with Israel, Syria and Lebanon to contain the violence.

"Our interest is to try to put an end to these actions which are begetting violence. The cycle of violence is of no interest to anyone except for those who do not want peace," he said.

The ambassador called for "concerted efforts by all the parties concerned to calm down the atmosphere, to try and make it possible once again to make the peace process work."

Peace negotiations "cannot take place in an atmosphere where there is shelling, bombing, violence," he said.

Israel accused Syria of sitting idly by while guerrillas under its control plot attacks on Israel from Lebanon.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian at a meeting on Thursday to press Syria to rein in Hizbollah, an Israeli spokesman said.

Defending the raid Police Minister Moshe Shahal told army radio: "Syria sits with its arms folded. It doesn't prevent these actions. No question it has the ability to do so."

"Israel had no choice left but to defend its residents and civilians with the actions that were carried out," he said.

In Cairo non-aligned foreign ministers condemned the Israeli air raid, saying the action endangered Middle East peace.

Delegates to the 109-member group, gathering on the last day of a ministerial meeting, unanimously passed a resolution calling for immediate United Nations and big power action.

"The Non-Aligned Movement... calls on the (U.N.) Security Council... the United States and the Federation of

Gaza police chief talks tough

(Continued from page 1)

the rigors of training after only a week.

"They couldn't keep up," Mr. Abu Zaid said of the recruits from the Fatah Hawks, the militant Gaza group aligned with PLO chief Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah organisation, Mr. Abu Zaid, himself a senior Fatah figure in Gaza, spoke to Israel Television on Tuesday.

The Hawks responded on Thursday by publishing a leaflet in the Gaza Strip threatening Mr. Abu Zaid with violence, Israel Radio said.

"When we fought the Israelis, you hid like a mouse," the radio quoted the leaflet as saying.

The Fatah Hawks, one of the main militant groups that had fought Israel's occupation of Gaza, had hoped to make up the bulk of local police recruits.

The Hawks had celebrated with kisses, flowers, and gunfire in the air when the first Palestinian policemen arrived from overseas in mid-May. Some 150 Hawks immediately signed on for the new force and reported for training at a police base in Jericho.

Weeks later, the good-will soured and half of the Hawks were sent home.

"They didn't anticipate discipline and serious training," Mr. Abu Zaid said.

In Damascus, the Islamic Jihad group said it killed two Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip on Friday but the Israeli army denied the claim.

Islamic Jihad, which opposes the self-rule deal with Israel, said in a faxed statement the

Islamists reject municipalities law

(Continued from page 10)

In a May 26 statement, the Brotherhood called on Zaqra residents to demand that the government dissolve its appointed municipal council and restore the elected one.

The statement said that Zaqra had witnessed great progress in providing services like electricity and garbage collection under the management of the previous council headed by Mr. Omari, whose priority was "to serve his people."

A conservative member of parliament who asked not to be named said that the government's decision to dissolve the municipal councils was probably prompted by a perceived fear of the Islamists' spreading popularity.

He also said that despite the apparent opposition of Islamists to the government's policy in many issues, such as the sales tax law and the municipalities law, they (Islamists) are very careful

Yemenis fight despite truce acceptance

(Continued from page 1)

When you have something in your hand, you don't need to catch it," he said.

There was no independent word on whether southern forces had succeeded in stopping the northern move to capture the village of Sabar 18 kilometres north of Aden. Sabar is the site of one of several water plants serving the city.

Southern defence ministry official Saleh Abdul Haq said Sabar had been secured by a southern counter-attack and the northern advance party, which he said was composed mainly of non-Yemeni fighters, was in disarray.

Soldiers at a checkpoint five kilometres south of Sabar were calmer than on Thursday and more confident in their talk of a northern setback. But they refused to allow journalists further north, saying the area was still dangerous.

Analysts said southern forces would want to turn back the flanking manoeuvre without having to deplete Aden's main defence line north and east of Sabar, where artillery, tanks and rocket launchers face the northern troops in the area of Al Anad military base.

The northern government said it was willing to put into effect the U.N. resolution which it had initially opposed as an interference in internal affairs.

But it did not say if it accepted the ceasefire or was prepared to talk to the southern leaders it condemns as rebels.

Mr. Lawzi said the next step in implementing the U.N. resolution would come after the arrival of the U.N. fact-finding mission led by Mr. Brahimi.

"They'll decide on the parties who will negotiate," he said.

Diplomats said Sanaa, while not happy about the U.N. resolution which failed to mention the unity of the country, has decided to deal with what it

considered positive elements in it.

Non-aligned seek role

(Continued from page 1)

foreign ministers "noted the progress in the current contacts" between Iraq and the International Agency for Atomic Energy (IAEA) on implementing the U.N. Security Council resolution.

The final text was changed from the initial draft which only mentioned the Kuwaiti position calling on Iraq to respect its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

But Iraq said the final version did not go far enough by leaving out any mention of the U.N.'s refusal to ease economic sanctions despite the suffering of its people.

An Arab delegate said before the vote that NAM should recognise Iraq's progress to prove that the organisation "has its own policies independent of the United Nations."

On Bosnia, the declaration called on the Security Council to enforce a ceasefire throughout the republic, beef up the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force (UNPROFOR), and consider deploying troops along Bosnia's border with rump Yugoslavia.

It also proposed a new international peace conference on Bosnia that would include Islamic and NAM representatives as well as permanent Security Council members, the European Union and the warring parties.

Rump Yugoslavia, though technically a non-aligned member, was not invited to the

N. Korea warns against sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

move was expected, but China, which has urged more dialogue, tried unsuccessfully up to the last minute to persuade the Security Council president to postpone Mr. Blix's appearance, diplomats said.

Mr. Blix was nonetheless en route for New York aboard the supersonic Concorde jetliner and was expected to address the Council late Friday, a U.N. spokesman said.

Officials from Japan, South Korea and the United States were to open talks in Washington Friday reportedly to discuss joint sanctions to be imposed against North Korea in the case of an unsuccessful U.N. measure against the country.

North Korea meanwhile test-fired another anti-ship missile over the Sea of Japan, a Japanese government source said.

The source said North Korea fired the missile, believed to be an upgrade version of the Chinese-designed Silkworm, over the Sea of Japan on Thursday.

It was the second known test-firing by the Stalinist state of an anti-ship missile this week. Tokyo and Washington had separately said North Korea fired the first one into the Sea of Japan on Tuesday.

The Japanese source played down the significance of the tests.

Clinton honours war heroes

(Continued from page 10)

he said, is that men "chose violence over reason" and "dictators thirst for power prevailed over the natural and inviolable rights of the human person with the idea of the hegemony of a superior race that wipes out human brotherhood and leads inexorably to extermination and genocide."

Mr. Clinton walked by himself among the rows of simple white crosses and stars of David. At the cross, he reached down and righted a small American flag that had toppled.

Stopping at the marker of the grave of Ophelia Tiley, an American Red Cross worker killed on March 25, 1944, Mr. Clinton was greeted by a 73-year-old nurse who served in World War II, June Wandry of Portage, Michigan.

She was wearing the same brown uniform she wore a half century ago.

The American dead are from three allied landings in Italy: Sicily on July 10, 1943; Salerno on Sept. 9, 1943; and Anzio - adjacent to the cemetery - on Jan. 22, 1944.

Pizzas

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8 inch 20 cm

Turino Cheers

The Arab Jordanian Company For The Development of Private Education

Rawdat Al-Ma'aref Schools and college (R.A.M.S)

Foundation Year

Mr. Bassem Barakat, Director General R.A.M.S. / Amman, has signed an agreement with British Universities known as "Northern Consortium" to establish a Foundation Year at R.A.M.S. / Amman. This significant project will enable our high school graduates (without the need to study the GCE 'O' level / 'A' level programs) to complete the requirements of a first year of university at R.A.M.S. and later join one of twelve well-known British universities for three years to obtain a degree. The implementation of this agreement is scheduled for the academic year 94/95.

The Northern Consortium consists of:

- University of Bradford, University of Huddersfield, University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University, University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Manchester, UMIST, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Salford, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University.

From Left:

- Brian Jeremiah Deputy Chairman Northern Consortium
- Professor Colin Mc Graw
- Dr. David Rivers Academic Co-ordinator Northern Consortium
- Mr Trevor Christie English Language University of Leeds
- Shoona Ferguson Assistant Registrar
- Mr. B. Barakat Director General of R.A.M.S.
- Jaqueline Brown International offices University of Leeds
- Ms. P. Adams Director of English Language, University of Leeds
- Professor D. Holdcroft Chairman Northern Consortium
- Dr. E Wood Head of Department of Biochemistry

Israel seeks access to EU telecoms contracts

BRUSSELS (R) — Israeli Trade Minister Micha Harish urged the European Union (EU) today to open up EU government telecommunications contracts to Israeli firms as a way of narrowing Israel's trade deficit with the EU.

Mr. Harish told a news conference that opinion among EU member states appeared divided on this request.

Some countries, which he did not name, expected Israel to make new trade concessions in return for such access, for example by granting wider access to EU bids for Israeli energy and municipal services contracts.

Mr. Harish said Israel should not have to make such concessions as it had already opened its market in such fields as electricity industry contracts without reciprocity by the EU.

Mr. Harish was speaking before completing a round of meetings with five EU commissioners during which he stressed the priority Israel attaches to research and development provisions of a new EU-Israel agreement.

Mr. Harish said negotiations on the agreement, which will replace a 1975 accord between the two sides, should be completed by the end of the year.

He said his country's main priority in the negotiations was to be able to participate as an equal partner in the EU's research and development activities.

"We would like to have a much clearer definition of research and development cooperation because that is the key," said the minister, adding that Israel was also expanding technological cooperation with the United States, Japan and China.

Mr. Harish said Israel had \$6 billion trade deficit with the EU last year, and that Europe's recession was the main factor holding back growth of EU-Israel trade.

Mr. Harish said rules of origin set out in the 1975 agreement should be altered to take account of changed trading practices followed the end of the cold war.

Specifically, in sectors such as textiles, he said that Israeli materials exported to the EU might be temporarily re-exported to eastern Europe for processing.

When reimported into the EU, they could then be subject to duty, a situation Israel would like to see changed since the use of eastern Europe plants was at the initiative of firms in west Europe, not Israel.

Weekly analysis of movements, trends of major world currencies

This report is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai. Rates, where applicable, are as of Wednesday, June 1, 1994

Overview

Fundamental View: The dollar appears to be stabilising against the yen and the Deutschmark, despite underlying negative sentiment. We have recently moved to a more neutral projection for the dollar against the Deutschmark, based mainly on the view that most of the news that might have been expected to help the dollar is already behind us. U.S. rates have moved up, but are expected to be stable for a while or rise only marginally over the course of the year. Germany has eased policy more rapidly than expected, but is also likely to pause for some time this summer.

On balance, we now expect the dollar to remain in the DM 1.60-1.70 range for most of the next year, and have moved our 12-month target down from DM 1.75 to DM 1.70. We still expect Japan's trade surplus — politics or not — to keep upward pressure on the yen in the long term, and maintain our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95.

Technical View: Aided by a 0.2 per cent rally against the Japanese yen, the U.S. dollar index posted its third gain in four weeks, despite the fact that the greenback actually lost ground against four of the six currencies that we most regularly monitor. Sentiment for the dollar is generally viewed as oversold, and momentum for the dollar index (as well as against four of the six currencies) is viewed as bottoming-to-up. This improving environment suggests that the dollar's 1994 correction is on its last legs.

We continue, therefore, to anticipate a summer rally by the dollar. Support for the index exists at 91.20 and 90.30. The ability to rally back through 93.50-94.00 would aid momentum and would add substance to the bottom-building argument; a move through 95.30 would likely confirm it.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: An easing of trade tensions between the U.S. and Japan, together with fears of central bank intervention, has helped to stabilise the dollar at the 104.6 level against the yen. Market participants continue to be quite sensitive to every nuance in U.S.-Japan trade relations, but there is little doubt that U.S. policy makers have made a decision to put financial market stability ahead of trade goals for the time being. But the yen could prove to be difficult to stabilise because of Japan's financial problems and the sheer size of Japan's current account imbalance.

Even with the recent hike in U.S. interest rates and lower overnight rates in Japan, it is not clear that Japanese investors are willing or able to finance the imbalance after having suffered large losses on their foreign and domestic investments in recent years.

China pledges to focus more funds on farming

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government is to invest 1.9 billion yuan (\$219 million) in its agricultural development programme this year, up by 200 million yuan over 1993, the China Daily has said.

Comprehensive agricultural development programme official Wang Xianjin said the funds would be used for development of crops, including grain and cotton, as well as to be invested in forestry, animal husbandry, side-line production and fishery projects.

Some 25 billion yuan has been invested by central and local governments in the programme since it was launched in 1988, said Mr. Wang.

The official's comments come during a government campaign to demonstrate its renewed commitment to the development of agriculture, amid fears that disappointing summer grain and cotton harvests will heighten discontent among the country's 800 million farmers and boost national inflation.

In recent months, the government has moved to control grain prices — which surged 40 per cent in late 1993.

Thus, persistent dollar-buying efforts by the central banks may be needed for some time to come to keep the yen from breaking through the JPY/USD 100 level.

We continue to expect Japan to post a current account surplus of more than \$125 billion this year. We expect the weight of that surplus, relative to underlying private sector capital flows, to push the dollar toward our 12-month target of 95 yen.

Technical View: The Japanese yen fell 0.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 27. Sentiment remains neutral, but has been improving in recent weeks. Short term momentum continues to show signs of bottoming, so renewed yen strength is possible and at least raises the possibility of a challenge of the recent highs. Nonetheless, medium term indicators have peaked, so any near term strength will not likely be confirmed and may only serve to form a potentially important top. This would further build the evidence that the rally from at least last March's low (near 106 Y/USD), and quite likely from last January's low (near 113) is in its latter stages.

Given that long term oscillators are also deteriorating, the currency may in coming weeks be in position for its most extended period of weakness in months — possible short term strength notwithstanding. Support at 106-112 is viewed as being significant; a breakdown through that range would do much to confirm the existence of a top. Benchmark resistance remains at 97-98.

Deutschmark

Fundamental View: We recently trimmed our forecast for the dollar against the Deutschmark (again), based mainly on the view that most of the news that might have been expected to help the dollar is already behind us. U.S. rates have moved up, but are expected to be stable for a while or rise only marginally over the course of the year. Germany has eased policy more rapidly than expected in recent months, but is expected to pause for some time this summer because M-3 money growth at an annual rate of 15.8 per cent in March remains far above the Bundesbank's target ceiling of 6 per cent. German industry also appears to be pulling out of recession sooner than expected with industrial output in April up 4.1 per cent from a year ago.

With German inflation expected to fall to about 2 per cent early next year as short-term interest rates fall to 4 per cent, real interest rates in Germany actually seem set to rise relative to U.S. real rates. That view is based on our U.S. economics unit's forecast that the Fed funds rate will stabilise at 4.5 per cent for an extended period against steady CPI inflation of about 3 per cent. Moreover, any tendency for the dollar to remain weak against the yen could have spillover effects on European currencies as well.

On balance, we now expect the dollar to remain in the DM 1.60-1.70 range for most of the next year, and have moved our

12-month target down from DM 1.75 to DM 1.70.

Technical View: The Deutschmark rallied 0.2 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Medium term sentiment is at its most overbought reading since October 1992. Short term momentum has started to improve again, but only from a neutral condition. Medium term oscillators are peaking. This suggests that any short term strength may only serve to put the final pieces to a top in place. Nonetheless, a decline through 1.675-1.695 DM/USD is probably still needed to indicate that a peak is, in fact, in place and allow for 1.72-1.73.

First resistance remains at 1.63-1.64, with second resistance at last October's high near 1.59. The mark/yen cross-rate rate remains in the 63-64 area. While medium term momentum is constructive, short term momentum is peaking. As long as this conflict remains in place, any nearby pullback is likely to be fairly well contained. Nearby support is at 63.25 and 62.40-62.80. The multi-month trading range, basing pattern remains intact.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound continued to trade near DM/GBP 2.49 this week, but edged higher against the dollar to trade near U.S.\$/GBP 1.52. The pound has been unable to benefit from a rising short-term rate premium against the DM because of political uncertainty surrounding the June 9th European elections. A poor performance by the conservatives would significantly increase pressure on John Major to resign as prime minister. Additionally, the pound has been hurt by diminished anti-inflation credibility of the U.K. authorities following perceptions that the last base rate cut was politically motivated.

We believe that U.K. base rates have bottomed, but we think they are unlikely to be raised this year because we foresee no upward pressure on inflation in light of significant spare capacity. A modest uptick in U.K. short-term rates coupled with a series of sizable German rate cuts should lead the pound up to DM/GBP 2.55 in 12 months. The pound should also be supported by a substantial yield premium over German bonds.

We expect the pound to trade at U.S.\$ GBP 1.50 in 12 months as pound appreciation against the DM is roughly offset by DM depreciation against the dollar.

Technical View: The British pound rallied 0.3 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 27. Sentiment, while still neutral, has begun to deteriorate noticeably. Short term momentum is upwardly biased, but initial signs of deterioration are now evident. Reflecting the narrow multi-month trading range, medium term oscillators continue to show very little definition. First resistance exists at 1.52 U.S./L, and second resistance is at 1.55. The lower end of the trading range at 1.46 is support; a break below that would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near 1.43 and possibly long term support at 1.40-1.42. The DM cross-rate remains near its 1994 low despite recently firm near term momentum.

Those oscillators have started to deteriorate again, so lower lows are possible. However, medium term oscillators are still trying to bottom, so while a test of 2.43-2.44 is still possible, an important low may not be that far away. First resistance has been lowered to 2.515, with second resistance at 2.53-2.56.

Warsaw to sell 49% of Lot

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The Polish government plans to sell 49 per cent of Lot, the country's national airline, the transport minister has said. "It is time to privatise our flag carrier Lot," which has a book value of about 2.2 trillion zlotys (\$98 million), Minister Boguslaw Liberadzki told the PAP news agency. The sale of 49 per cent of the airline's stock would not have to go to a single investor or to another airline Mr. Liberadzki said.

On May 10, Lot agreed to share traffic information and coordinate flight schedules with American Airlines. The agreement paved the way for American to acquire part of the Polish carrier, but Mr. Liberadzki indicated that American was not seen as a potential strategic buyer.

Miseries of Yugoslavia are a lure for Sri Lankan job-seekers

COLOMBO (AFP) — War-torn former Yugoslavia may be hell for many of its citizens, but for some Sri Lankans it holds the glitter of Eldorado.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Employment Bureau (FEB) and private recruitment agencies have received a flood of applications since they began advertising for jobs in former Yugoslavia last week.

"The response has been tremendous. Already we have sent 570 names to an American agency which is handling recruitment. We are processing more applications," said H. B. Seneviratne, chairman of the government-run FEB.

The latest jobs are in civilian support services for the United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR), the 32,500-man peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Croatia, he said. A condition for most posts is that the applicant already has had military service.

Sri Lanka's traditional foreign job market is the Middle East, where some 500,000 Sri Lankans are working now.

But at the moment the former Yugoslavia — where life can be dangerous and isolated

— pays far more.

"A carpenter will be able to get a monthly salary of 25,000 rupees (about \$500). The same type of work fetches a maximum of 10,000 rupees (about \$200) a month in the Middle East," Mr. Seneviratne said.

Besides carpenters, there are also vacancies for cooks, computer programmers, engineers, surveyors, customs officers, fuel tank drivers, plumbers and operators for communications and construction equipment.

An experienced engineer is being offered about \$3,000 in the former Yugoslavia — almost double the amount a local engineer could get in the Middle East.

Because the money is so good, competition for the jobs is tight.

American agencies recruiting for work in Croatia are also trawling in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

For Sri Lankans, the jobs are critical: Remittances are now the country's main foreign exchange earner, pushing the traditional leader, tea exports,

into second place.

Sri Lankan migrant workers, mostly housemaids, remitted \$645 million in 1993, and are expected to send home \$800 million this year.

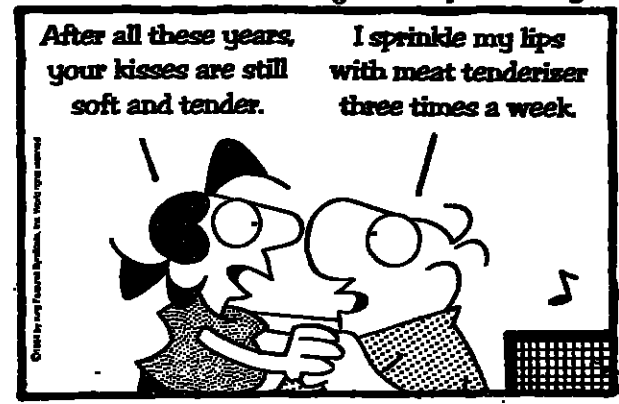
Large numbers of Sri Lankans have also been recruited for employment in Singapore, Mauritius, the United States and the Maldives, but this is the first time job offers have come from an east European country, officials said.

"We had to get cabinet approval for this scheme. This is a big job order and a first experience for us," Mr. Seneviratne said.

The Sri Lankan government is also hoping to win job contracts from Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, and from the reconstruction of Lebanon and the new autonomous Palestinian regions in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

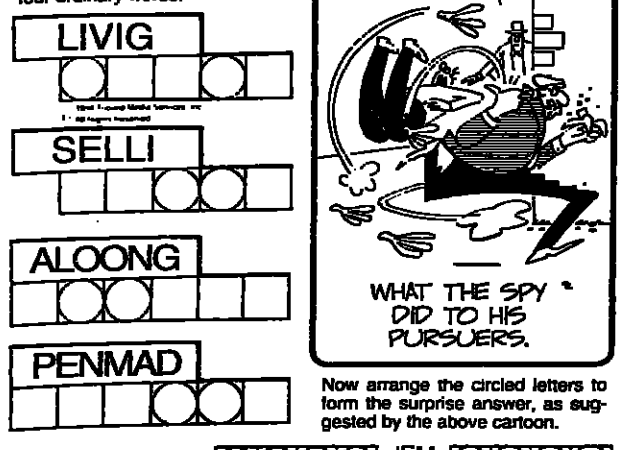
Recruitment for the foreign manpower market has become a roaring business here. There are 257 licensed private job agencies, but dozens of others have been operating illegally in a bid to avoid official regulations governing recruitment procedures.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



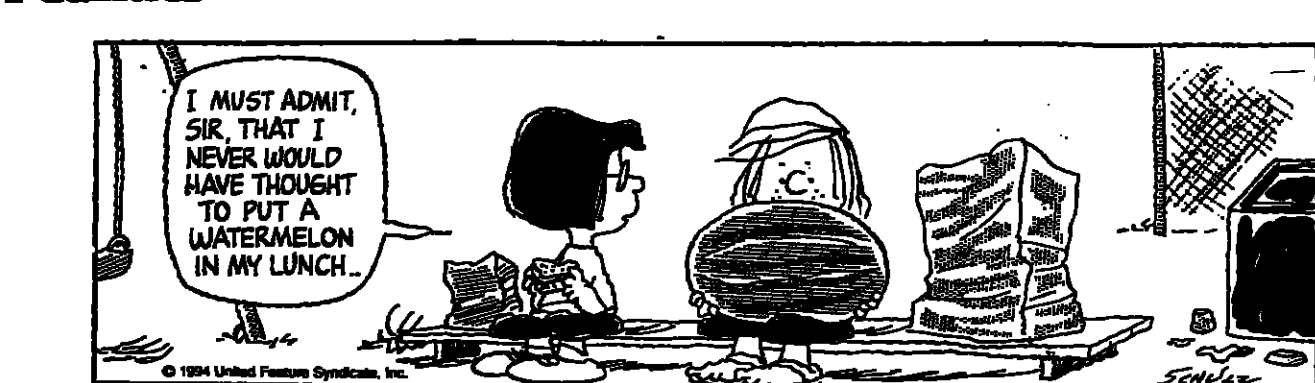
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

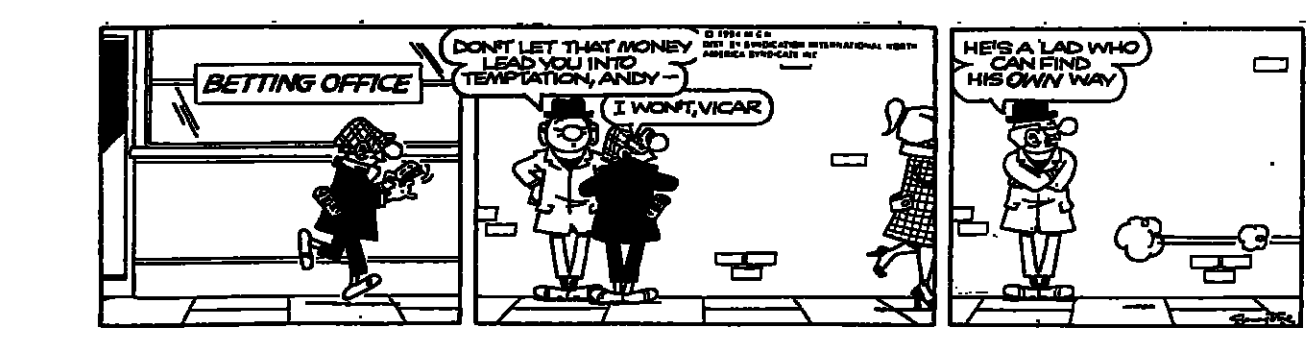


Answer here: EM THE BUBBLE (Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumble: GAWKY OCCUR CASKET BUBBLE
Answer: What cowboys get for riding broncos — A BUCK OR TWO

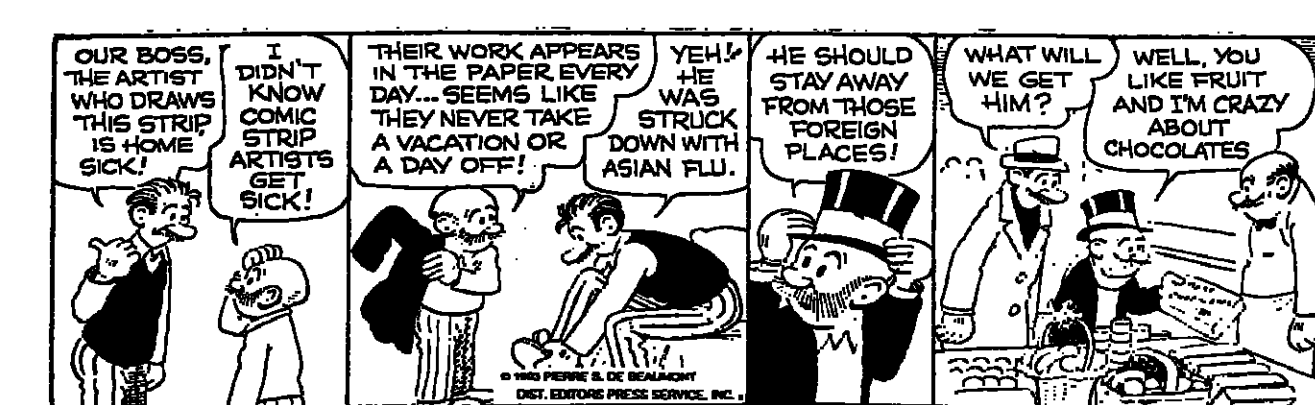
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 4, 1994

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Delays and obstacles in the path of your goals may make you feel that you are not working at the right pace or proceeding in the right direction. Recheck your previous sources of information.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day to get some special task perfected. Be careful about taking risks of any kind. Sideslip a troublesome who will cause problems.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study the situation at home and know how you can best improve it. Evening is fine for entertaining friends and relatives.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A good day for improving routines and gaining cooperative allies. Avoid one who has been interfering in your personal and professional affairs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to add to present income so that you can be happier in the future. Express happiness with your loved one.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study your innermost yearnings and later you can make plans to go after them successfully. Engage in your favourite hobby for some peaceful time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to improve conditions around you. The evening can be a happy time in the company of congenial friends and loved ones around you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Concentrate on how you can improve your environment. Be more active and gain important personal aims which you are very much anxious to get.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Analyse your position well and know where you are headed in financial and property matters. Be logical in what you are attempting to accomplish.

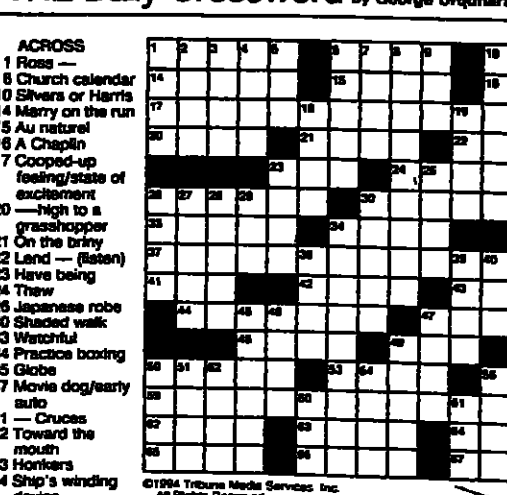
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan how to have better relations with allies in the future and take initial steps towards such. Spend your money wisely to have some in future when needed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have important duties to handle now so don't procrastinate at this time. Take treatments to improve your appearance to those in charge.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try to please your associates more and they will do likewise toward you. Take positive steps to gain your aims and desires.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Figure out the best way to improve your surroundings. Situations come up now that can bring benefits you had not expected to occur.

THE Daily Crossword by George Ungar



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

1 Place	8 In — (sleeper)	45 Green Bay	54 Different
2 Church calendar	9 — the	46 Wound mark	55 After Alan
3 Shivers or Haris	10 Grosse	47 Around	56 Middy
4 Merry on the run	11 Table	48 George city	57 Rotate
5 Au nature	12 Poru native	49 River in Spain	58 Mammal
6 A Chapin	13 Cowardly	50 Swallow	59 Volcano
7 Cooped-up	14 "Cheer by	51 Waver	60 WWII agcy.
8 feeling/state of	15 —	52 Division word	61 Flight
9 excitement	16 —		
10 high to a	17 —		
11 On the try	18 —		
12 Land — (Ratan)	19 —		
13 Have being	20 —		
14 Thaw	21 —		
15 Japanese robe	22 —		
16 Shaded walk	23 —		
17 Watchful	24 —		
18 Practice boxing	25 —		
19 Glaze	26 —		
20 Movie dog/hairy	27 —		
21 auto	28 —		
22 Cruises	29 —		
23 Toward the	30 —		
24 south	31 —		
25 Ship's winding	32 —		
26 device	33 —		
27 Poem	34 —		
28 Made great	35 —		
29 grades	36 —		
30 Mail de —	37 —		
31 Author Jong	38 —		
32 Practice	39 —		
33 Sweetest the pot	40 —		
34 Money	41 —		
35 supply/state of	42 —		
36 check/shout	43 —		
37 Of passage	44 —		
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39 money	46 —		
40 Decorate	47 —		
41 Of a public bone	48 —		
42 Brandy go.	49 —		
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44 Of base	51 —		
45 "Cheer by	52 —		
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47 Come about	54 —		
48 Sat on a horse	55 —		
49 Early Ron	56 —		
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54 —	61 —		

السلامة في البحر

Economy

OECD jobless report offers no magic global cure

PARIS (R) — An OECD report on unemployment in the world's richest industrial nations offers country-by-country remedies but no global cure, diplomats have said.

The document, which member governments commissioned from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) two years ago, will be presented at the economic think-tank's annual ministerial meeting in Paris next Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The basic message of the report is that there is no magic cure," said one diplomat who has been involved in preparing the document. "There are a lot of individual actions that countries can take but differing from one another."

Unemployment in the OECD has exploded since the end of the 1980s and is forecast to reach a record 35 million this year.

The International Herald Tribune newspaper has said that the report proposes the dilution of minimum wage protection as well as employment

security and unemployment benefits as part of a wide-ranging overhaul of economic, labour and social policies. "That is not quite the spin I would have put on it," the diplomat added.

Another diplomat said the report, which was finalised at the end of May after committee discussions with representatives of the 25 member states, urged governments, businesses and workers themselves to root out labour market rigidities.

"It makes clear that we have to undertake both structural as well as macroeconomic measures," he said. "Economic recovery has not been enough to create jobs."

Asked about recommendations to cut workers' benefits, he said: "Those ideas are there for some countries. But it's certainly not an issue in the United States, where there is plenty of job flexibility."

Concern over the social and economic impact of the seemingly inexorable rise in the number of people out of work has forced Western gov-

Africans must reform farming or be permanent beggars

HARARE (R) — African states must invest heavily and reform the agricultural sector if the continent is to avoid permanent dependence on foreign food handouts, a delegate told an African summit Friday.

Zimbabwe's Agriculture Minister Kumbirai Kangai said Africa, the world's poorest continent, must learn from experiences of Asian nations that had moved rapidly out of poverty.

"As long as African states do not invest heavily in agriculture and reform that sector, the majority of our states will continue to beg for food and aid from the international community," Mr. Kangai said, presenting a report focusing on eastern and southern Africa.

He cited India which he said had succeeded in transforming its agriculture because it had devoted up to 27 per cent of its public expenditure for 32 years on that sector.

Africa, on the other hand, spent only 10 per cent of its national budgets on a sector that remained underdeveloped

despite widespread hunger and unemployment.

Mr. Kangai said in southern and central Africa, agriculture accounted for 30 per cent of the region's gross domestic product and provided half its exports.

"It is the engine of economic growth," he said. He was backed by Ghana's Ibrahim Adam, who called for curbs on Africa's runaway population growth of three per cent a year which dwarfs annual economic growth of about two per cent.

Mr. Adam also said the private sector must have a more prominent role in farming and that governments must give greater support to small farmers, as well as boost agricultural research and extension services.

The ministers were speaking on the second and final day of a meeting of the Global Coalition for Africa, a think-tank set

up in 1991 by the continent's some Western states to work out ways of lifting Africa out of poverty in the post-cold war era.

A Swedish official who spoke on behalf of Western countries such as the United States, Britain, the Netherlands, France and Germany said aid donors were willing to give more funding to agriculture but Africa must itself give its priorities right.

"There is a need to have commitment by Africa to develop agriculture and matching support from donor countries," the official, who declined to be named, said.

"One of Africa's main problems has been the expansion of the use of land but not productivity. So many people in Africa are farmers and increased productivity could make the difference between malnutrition and hunger at food sufficiency," he said.

Canadian business profits maintain upward surge

OTTAWA (APR) — Seasonally-adjusted operating profits of Canadian businesses continued to improve in the first quarter of 1994 with a 19 per cent advance, Statistics Canada reported Friday.

The government agency put the quarterly profits for companies that report their financial returns at 16.7 billion dollars (\$12.1 billion) for the first three months of this year, compared to 14 billion dollars (\$10.1 billion) in the fourth quarter of 1993 and 13.6 billion dollars (\$9.9 billion) in the third quarter last year.

Statistics Canada noted: "Profits have improved in four of the latest five quarters and have doubled since registering a low of 8.3 billion dollars (\$6 billion) in the fourth quarter of 1992."

Operating profits in no financial industries increased to 13.1 billion dollars (\$9 billion) in the first quarter from 11.5 billion dollars (\$8 billion) in the previous quarter.

With chartered banks at life insurers leading the way, the financial industries sector also showed improved profits — at \$3.5 billion dollars (\$2.1 billion) in the preceding three months.

But Statistics Canada warned: "Unlike the non-financial industries' profits (which have generally been rising), the financial industries' profits have been erratic, primarily due to unusual loan-loss provisions."

"However, current profits were still no more than three fourths of the peak level attained in the first quarter 1989."

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN					
TELEPHONE: 540170 / 541170					
WEEKLY REPORT					
DOMESTIC MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (12/05/1994 - 01/06/1994)					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	
				JD	PRICE
AMMAN BANK	290,125	187,000	186,500	187,000	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	181,996	3,570	3,520	3,500	
BANK OF JORDAN	19,110	4,000	4,250	4,400	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	89,468	2,100	2,070	2,040	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	145,154	1,040	1,020	1,000	
THE JORDANIAN BANK	44,798	5,600	5,400	5,100	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	119,719	1,200	1,220	1,200	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	321,751	2,010	2,000	1,980	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	46,798	4,200	4,200	4,200	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,548,443	4,110	4,080	4,030	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,282	4,900	4,710	4,770	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	898	1,500	3,900	3,900	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3,750	9,600	9,600	9,600	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	183,737	1,870	1,850	1,840	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,055	4,600	4,200	4,250	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	294,885	2,110	2,120	2,080	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	87,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,500	4,450	4,500	4,500	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	46,737	1,010	1,000	990	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	483	1,700	1,610	1,610	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9,920	4,820	4,650	4,590	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,500	2,000	2,350	2,300	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	792	3,500	4,400	4,400	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	154,441	2,040	2,030	2,020	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	15,112	7,400	7,400	7,400	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	92,534	2,300	2,300	2,300	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,118	0,700	0,640	0,610	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	121,881	4,040	4,040	4,040	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3,136	1,470	1,470	1,470	
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	18,425	1,550	1,550	1,550	
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Rwanda rebels overrun refugee centre

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Rwandan rebels have overrun the government-controlled area of Kabagayi where thousands of Tutsi refugees are crowded into camps, a Red Cross official said Friday.

The RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) stormed the area yesterday, the official said.

The official said he had heard of the capture from Red Cross colleagues working in Kabagayi, a former Roman Catholic seminary 50 kilometres southwest of the capital Kigali.

Thousands of mainly Tutsi civilians have sheltered in Kabagayi during the last eight weeks of fighting but government troops and Hutu death squads occasionally pulled refugees from the squalid camp and killed them, witnesses said.

Aid workers said on the weekend they were afraid that the retreating government forces and Hutu militias — who are blamed for butchering 500,000 people since the fighting started — would go on fresh killing sprees.

Meanwhile, U.N. soldiers came under fire here Friday while evacuating civilians trapped in hostile territory despite promises of safety from rebels and the army, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Nobody was hurt in the attack in the Rwandan capital, which is under rebel siege, Major Jean-Guy Plante said.

U.N. officials believed that a "local commander" from the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front or the army had ordered his men to fire on a convoy as the action was out of line with the stated policy of both sides, he added.

The convoy ferrying civilians to government-held territory from the Amahoro Stadium behind rebel lines was shot at while driving through the notoriously dangerous Qadhafi Crossing on Kigali's northwestern outskirts, Maj. Plante said.

Nobody was hurt, but bullets hit one vehicle as the convoy drove towards government territory.

"The convoy made it through, dropped off the civilians, and was then shot at again on the way back," Maj. Plante told reporters. In all, 2,000 people have been evacuated from Kigali, 250 of them Friday.

U.N. Deputy force commander Brigadier Henry Anyidoho went to investigate the shooting. But his armoured vehicle also came under fire near the Qadhafi Crossing, where the rebels and the army were "engaged in a firefight," Maj. Plante said.

There complained that Hutu militiamen were raiding the church at night, abducting and killing men, and raping women. Extremist Hutu militias have been blamed for much of the bloodletting sparked by the April 6 death of President Juvenal Habyarimana.

Up to half a million people, mostly Tutsis and Hutu opposition supporters, have been hacked, bludgeoned, burned or machine-gunned to death.

"We were badly treated by the Interahamwe (militias)," said Marie-Josée Murebwayire following her evacuation to Kabuga after six weeks at the church.

"They used to come at night to take boys to kill and girls to rape," said Ms. Murebwayire, 30, a mother of four whose husband was hacked to death in the first few days of the bloodbath.

When white U.N. trucks delivered 180 evacuees to Kabuga, many hugged and kissed relatives in scenes of wild rejoicing as they were reunited after two months of terror and uncertainty. But Ms. Murebwayire and her children stood silent and alone.

"All our relatives have been killed," she said. "My brother is in America, how can I go there?"

Many people sheltering



A British soldier guides a U.N. helicopter into a landing zone situated in a field outside the central Bosnian town of Zepce. British U.N. forces currently patrol the area which straddles areas controlled by the now allied Bosnian Croat (HVO) and Bosnian Army forces (AFP photo)

U.N. urges Serbs to save Geneva talks

GENEVA (R) — The U.N. special envoy in former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, met Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic Friday to press for a pull-back by Serb forces from the U.N. "safe area" of Gorazde.

Mr. Akashi, forced Thursday to call off ceasefire talks because of a Serb refusal to withdraw from the U.N. exclusion zone around the Muslim enclave, was hoping to persuade the Serbs to comply.

As the two men met, Mr. Akashi's spokesman said there had been some Serb withdrawal from Gorazde.

But he said he saw little chance of the talks starting Friday even if the Serbs did pull out.

"There has been some withdrawal and it's a significant withdrawal," spokesman Michael Williams told reporters.

"Nevertheless as of eight o'clock this morning there still remained armed Serb elements within the three-kilometre zone in and around the town of Gorazde."

Mr. Williams added: "As far as the numbers are concerned, frankly it doesn't matter if there's one or 101, there would still not be the basis for going ahead with the talks."

Bosnia's Muslim leaders have said they will not negotiate a ceasefire until some 150 soldiers, designated by the Serbs as police, are pulled out of the exclusion zone.

Mr. Williams said Bosnian government leaders, including Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Vice-President Ejup Ganic, were expected in Geneva later Friday for wider political negotiations due to start Saturday.

If the Serbs withdrew, Mr. Akashi could reschedule the ceasefire talks for Saturday morning. The political and territorial negotiations, under the auspices of the major power "contact group on Bosnia," might then start Sunday.

U.S. envoy Charles Redman, in Geneva alongside his Russian counterpart Vitaly Churkin for the contact group talks, said he did not think these were threatened by the Gorazde row.

The contact was asked to reach both a ceasefire and a political solution by a major power ministerial meeting in Geneva last month, which endorsed a European Union plan that Bosnian Serbs should keep 49 per cent of the territory.

The task of negotiating a ceasefire for around four months, during which time a political settlement could be found, was handed to Mr. Akashi and the U.N. Protection Force in former Yugoslavia.

Diplomats said both the Bosnian Muslim boycott of the talks and the Serb refusal to withdraw from Gorazde showed that neither side was serious about a ceasefire.

Bosnian Muslims and their new Croat allies, who have made ground against the Serbs in recent weeks, both say that any ceasefire should not last more than one or two months, to prevent Serb territorial gains being consolidated.

They also say any ceasefire imposed without progress first on Bosnia's future ethnic map might not be respected.

In the meantime, international mediators were forced to hang around Geneva with no negotiating to be done — reminiscent of a similar boycott in Geneva last year while Serb forces lingered on the strategic

Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo.

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration has joined its European allies and Russia for the first time to forge a detailed peace proposal for Bosnia based on a near-even split of land between the contending forces, the Washington Post reported Friday.

Washington had resisted backing specific outlines for a territorial solution between a Muslim-Croat Federation and a Serb-dominated force, although U.S. officials recently approved in principle a 51 per cent to 49 per cent division of land with the Muslims and Croats receiving the bare majority, the newspaper said.

Washington now was formally supporting that plan, to be presented at scheduled peace talks in Geneva, according to the Post.

Quoting an unidentified State Department official, the newspaper said concern that talks were going nowhere and that the war would drag on prompted Washington to propose the "de facto map" for partition with details left to the warring factions to work out.

"This is do-or-die for the Muslims, Croats and Serbs," the official was quoted as saying. "We basically offer a solution, but it is up to them to decide whether to accept."

Bosnia's president protested Thursday over the presence of a Serb liaison officer at U.N.-controlled Tuzla Airport, demanding its return to government hands unless he is removed.

"Without our knowledge UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) has allowed a Serb liaison officer to come to the airport," President Alija Izetbegovic told reporters in Sarajevo.

Aristide urges U.S. military action against Haiti

WASHINGTON (AFP) — "I assure that sanctions can do much," said Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, urging a U.S. intervention to depose Haiti's military leaders, in an interview published Friday in the Washington Post.

"The action could be a surgical move to remove the thugs within hours," Mr. Aristide said in the strongest statement to date in favour of military intervention.

Mr. Aristide doubted that the sanctions imposed on May 21 by the United Nations on Haiti would force the military leaders who deposed him in 1991 to step down.

"If we really want to save lives, something else should be done now," the former Roman Catholic priest said.

The sanctions, which cover everything except humanitarian aid, have been criticised for hurting the poorest Haitians the most, while the military capula and the well off appear to get by smuggling goods mainly across the border from the Dominican Republic.

"Haiti is not the first case. When things were like that in another country, something was done. Why not in Haiti?" Mr. Aristide said recalling the U.S. invasion of Panama in late 1989 that deposed strongman Manuel Noriega.

Mr. Aristide, the first democratically-elected president in his country, said, however, that he was against a U.S. occupation of his country after an invasion.

"Once we do that, we could have the international community in the country within the framework of agreements we have already signed. Not in the framework of a military intervention," he said.

Once it became clear that the Haitian military would not honour a peace agreement they signed in July with Mr. Aristide and were determined to resist sanctions and other international pressure, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he did not rule out military action to restore democratic rule in Haiti.

But besides the difficulty of dislodging the top brass from power — Mr. Aristide said it would take a few hours, U.S. analysts are unsure what and how long it would take to help the country consolidate democracy.

Mr. Aristide set out a four-point beginning with the military action, followed by the arrival of international military experts to retrain the police and the army, then his own reinstatement as head of government, and ending with large-scale international development assistance for his country.

Reassuring those who wonder if he would turn against the United States if he were reinstated — his left-leaning policies during his six months in power distanced him somewhat from Washington, Mr. Aristide said he shared "mutual interests" not feel

Anti-IRA chiefs killed in U.K. helicopter crash

LONDON (R) — Leaders of Britain's intelligence war against the IRA were killed Thursday when 29 people died in a helicopter crash in thick fog on a remote Scottish headland, police said.

The giant twin-rotor Chinook, flying Belfast to a security conference in the Scottish city of Inverness, exploded in a fireball after slamming into a hillside on the remote Mull of Kintyre.

Rescue workers found one man alive in the flaming wreckage on the mist-shrouded headland but he died soon afterwards.

"There were bits of bodies everywhere," said mountain hiker Russell Elliott, one of the first witnesses on the scene of the crash in western Scotland.

The dead included the Royal Ulster Constabulary's top intelligence officer Brian Fitzsimons. Police acknowledged it was a shattering blow in the undercover war against Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

"The force is devastated. It seems the upper echelon of the special branch is missing," a Northern Ireland police officer said. "It is going to take some time to fill this void," he added.

"These people were right at the heart of intelligence. These were the men who made the special branch tick. It is a devastating blow," he said.

But detectives ruled out sabotage and Scotland's Strategic Police Chief Leslie Sharp said: "At this time there are no

reasons whatever to suspect or suppose that we are dealing with anyone other than a terribly tragic accident."

It was Britain's worst helicopter disaster since a civilian Chinook plunged into the North Sea in 1986, killing 45 workers returning to Scotland from an oil rig.

The Chinook had a crew of four and 25 passengers — 10 senior police officers and top army and government personnel.

The victims, all of top rank, also included the head of Northern Ireland's intelligence unit which handled highly sensitive material from informers, a crucial tool in the undercover war against IRA guerrillas.

The Chinook is the main military workhorse used by British armed forces.

A spokesman for its U.S. manufacturer Boeing told BBC Radio Friday: "I think the Chinook safety record is a good one."

The Royal Air Force's 30 Chinooks are at present being sent to Philadelphia in a year-long modernisation refit programme.

The crash site was sealed off in a tight security cordon Friday as investigators sifted through the widely dispersed wreckage to piece together the flight's last fatal moments.

"Every particle of the aircraft will have to be looked at to see if any bits of it yield clues as to what may have been the cause of the crash," RAF spokesman Craig Lindsay said.

S. Africa plays down whites-only referendum

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government Friday played down the possibility of a referendum for white Afrikaners seeking a white homeland.

Government spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe acknowledged that during an interview with Reuters, President Nelson Mandela had mentioned a referendum as one of the mechanisms that could be used to unite the people of South Africa.

"He went further to say the issue of mechanisms still need to be discussed. This shows that he was just giving an example. Nothing else but an example," Mr. Netshitenzhe told Independent Radio 702.

He did not say what other examples of possible mechanisms were.

In Thursday's interview, the first with an international news organisation since his inauguration as the country's first black president, Mr. Mandela told Reuters: "We want to allow Afrikaners themselves to express themselves on this issue."

Asked if a whites-only vote or referendum would be needed to test Afrikaner desires, Mr. Mandela said:

"The whites, the Afrikaners will have to vote, because if we throw the matter to the country as a whole, they will have an excuse and say no, this is a matter that has been decided by communities other than ourselves."

"We want everybody to have no doubt in his or her mind that we will do what the community wants us to do."

"If the Afrikaner community as a whole, or the majority, is in favour of a Volkstaat (homeland), our view will take one form. But if the majority of the Afrikaners say they do not want a Volkstaat, then we will take a different view," he said.

Pro-apartheid right-wing parties boycotted April's historic all-race elections, demanding a separate homeland for Afrikaners.

Hoping a peaceful solution would be found to assuage right-wing fears about black majority rule following last month's historic elections, Mr. Mandela had met several white separatist leaders.

Poll: U.K. Tories 33 points behind Labour in run-up to European elections

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party languishes 33 points behind the Labour opposition and faces the prospect of humiliating defeat in the June 9 European elections, according to a Gallup Poll appearing Friday.

The poll in Friday's Daily Telegraph estimates support for the Conservatives at just 21 per cent, half a percentage point behind the Liberal Democrats at 21.5 per cent, while Labour with 54 per cent looks set for a landslide victory.

It also confirmed shadow home secretary Tony Blair's substantial lead over his potential Labour rivals in the race for the Labour leadership, which will begin the day after voting in the European elections.

But as details of the poll leaked out Thursday night, Prime Minister John Major — undaunted — launched into his most forthright electioneering so far, saying he was unrepentant about criticism of the European Union and insisting

Europe had gone wrong in recent years.

Conservative strategists may find some consolation in the fact the poll was carried out between May 25 and May 30 before Mr. Major launched his series of attacks on European Union integration.

They are reported to believe his concept of a multi-paced Europe in which member states progress at different speeds offers the best hope of persuading Tory supporters to vote.

Mr. Major late Thursday pledged to campaign for an open Europe, which would not be "the remote preserve of an elite circle of politicians and bureaucrats" and where regulation would be dramatically reduced.

Stressing that he would not moderate his approach to Europe, he said: "I will be critical where I must. Difficult if I have to be. I would rather speak up and put the case for what I know to be right for Britain than clink glasses in agreement with something that

is wrong."

He repeated his condemnation of the social chapter of the Maastricht Treaty, saying: "The social chapter sounds fair. But what is fair — or moral — about making it harder for people without jobs to get back into work?"

Although the surge in Labour support may prove to be a temporary response to John Smith's death, Tory party managers are reported to fear Labour will receive another boost with the expected election of shadow home secretary Tony Blair to the leadership next month.

The Gallup poll carried out before the withdrawal Wednesday of shadow chancellor Gordon Brown, one of Mr. Blair's main rivals in the contest, found that Mr. Blair had nearly double the support of his nearest rival.

But the prospect that Mr. Blair could be elected unopposed brought the first signs of disunity in Labour's ranks since the loss of its leader John Smith, who died last month.

Bobbitt claims baby he once rejected

NIAGARA FALLS, New York (AFP) — John Bobbitt claimed fatherhood of a baby boy, ending a tangled paternity suit for the former Marine who made headlines last year when his wife cut off his penis. "I am thrilled, excited and blessed to be the father of this beautiful baby," Mr. Bobbitt said in a statement which recanted his earlier denials that the 17-month-old boy was his. Bearrice Williams, 21, said Mr. Bobbitt got her pregnant in 1992 while he was still married to his wife, Lorena, who cut off his penis after she said he raped her. Blood tests indicated Mr. Bobbitt was the father, but his lawyer had argued that the results were not conclusive enough to decide William's paternity suit which could give her up to 17 per cent of Bobbitt's earnings. The two are now working out a settlement but Mr. Bobbitt is due in court for another case in which he was charged with assaulting his fiancée. The two have reunited and she accompanied him to Thursday's hearing. Bobbitt, whose penis was reattached in June 1993, is expected to be able to have more children. His divorce from Lorena is to be final in July.

Play it again, Sam — louder

NEW YORK (AP) — Does your boogie-woogie fever give your neighbours the blues? The solution is now at your fingertips: The silent — ssshhhh — piano is here. The latest in keyboard technology was unveiled Wednesday by Yamaha, which has created a piano that only the player can hear. The instrument is a hybrid of a traditional piano and a digital piano. So what does that mean, other than no complaints from the rough and ready in the next apartment? The piano has a system that can be turned on to prevent the hammers from hitting the strings. The player listens to the music through headphones plugged into the piano. With the system off, the "silent series" piano performs like a normal instrument. The suggested retail price for the instrument is \$8,395.

Indonesia bans Schindler's List

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian film censors have banned the Oscar-winning movie Schindler's List, saying it contains too much violence and nudity. Soekanto, executive director of the Film Censorship Board, said the decision was reached at a full meeting of the board. The board earlier had passed the film by Steven Spielberg, though it had ordered some cuts of "sadistic and nudity scenes." Islamic leaders called the film Jewish propaganda and insisted that it be banned. Mr. Soekanto said, however, the board did not consider whether or not the film propagates Zionism. "We didn't base our decision on that matter. It's purely because of the nudity and sadistic action," he added. Schindler's List won seven Oscars in February's American Academy Awards presentation. It depicts the story of a German war profiteer who saved the lives of more than 1,000 Polish Jews from the Nazis. Controversy over the film also arose in Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia. However, Manila and Bangkok, under public pressure, have allowed it to be shown without cuts.

Japanese bosses still anti-women, minister says

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese minister said Friday that Japanese employers still believed men did a better job than women, and he urged employers to break the mould by hiring female graduates. Economic Planning Agency Minister Yoshio Terasawa said Japanese women received unequal treatment from employers. "Of course there are a lot of good women students around," Mr. Terasawa told a news conference. "I suspect employers still have outdated ideas that boys do better jobs than girls do," Mr. Terasawa said he had told his cabinet colleagues Japan lagged behind other industrial countries in that it was still arguing about equal rights. "It's a waste. I regret that foreign banks and securities companies are snatching away good women graduates while Japanese firms are giving up on them," said Mr. Terasawa, who came from the securities industry. The cabinet has set up a working group to help women students

Cambodia governor: Khmer Rouge can be beaten

PHNOM PENH (R) — Government forces have driven back Khmer Rouge guerrillas who in April threatened Cambodia's second city of Battambang, a local official said Friday.

Serey Kosal, deputy governor of the northwest province of the same name, said military units spearheaded by armed police had dispersed the guerrillas and were now dug in at Svay Sar about 60 kilometres southeast of Battambang City.

Mr. Kosal painted a picture of setbacks for the Maoist rebels since they inflicted two humiliating defeats on the army this year.

After capturing and then losing a northern guerrilla base at Anlong Veng, the army seized the main Khmer Rouge headquarters in the western border

area within two days, if ordered.

"If we were ordered to capture it, it would take two days — at the longest, two days," said Mr. Kosal, adding that guerrilla strength around Pailin was overrated.

Peace talks between the government and the Khmer Rouge ended in failure last weekend and Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh has predicted more fighting.

But analysts said the onset of the rainy season would probably mean fewer large-scale clashes. For the time being the army has deployed in roughly the same location as before its ill-conceived attack on Pailin.

The Khmer Rouge, responsible for the death of one million people, denies their defeat to the army.

free elections in May 1993. They are mounting a sporadic guerrilla war to back demands for what they call an advisory role in government.

Mr. Kosal said most army units loyal to the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the political wing of the former Vietnamese-installed government, had been withdrawn from frontline duty along the southern Route 10 highway.

Replacements from royalist and other non-Communist battalions had been deployed in their place, he said. The reason for the move was unclear.

The royalists and the CPP formed a coalition after the elections and merged their armed forces. But while the 160,000-strong army is now officially unified, most battalions have remained loyal to

Sports

Van Basten decides against World Cup

NOORDWIJK, Netherlands (R) — AC Milan striker Marco Van Basten has decided against joining the Dutch World Cup squad for the finals in the United States this month, a Dutch Soccer Union spokesman said Friday.

Van Basten was invited to become the 22nd player in the Dutch squad after Ruud Gullit left the Dutch training camp Monday without offering any reason.

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat has called in Anderlecht striker John Bosman in place of the three times European player of the year.

Van Basten, who has not played since May last year,

said Thursday he had told Advocaat he was ready to replace Ruud Gullit.

"I told him I am all right," Van Basten said. "If Gullit hadn't left the team, I would have stayed behind at Milan training. Given that this opportunity has come up, I'll go and train in America instead."

But according to Dutch media AC Milan has since urged Van Basten not to go as it was still too early to play at the top level. The club said that they were loyal to him after his two ankle operations and expected him to return that loyalty by not risking another ankle injury in the United States.

Pacers are one victory away from NBA finals

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AFP) — Reggie Miller is dominating basketball games the way Michael Jordan once did.

As a result, the surprising Indiana Pacers are one victory away from the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals.

"He just moved up to the next level," Indiana guard Byron Scott said of his backcourt mate. "People are starting to realize what kind of player he is. Now all he has to do is do it one more time."

Miller scored 25 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter, rallying Indiana from a 12-point deficit to a 93-86 victory over New York in game five of their semi-final series.

"Everything was happening in slow motion," Miller said. "I could see what defenders were going to do before they did it."

"That was a Michael Jordan game," New York coach Pat Riley said. "That was a Michael Jordan quarter."

The Pacers, who had never won an NBA playoff series before this year, can eliminate the Knicks with a triumph here

late Friday. New York must win to even the best-of-seven series and force a deciding game. Either way, the NBA finals start Wednesday in Houston.

"We're stunned. The Knicks are stunned. I know I'm stunned," Indiana forward Antonio Davis said. "Nobody expected this. But here we are."

Most stunned is New York's Patrick Ewing, who guaranteed two months ago his club would win the title. After being kept to a career-low one point in game three of the series, Ewing has watched the Pacers win three straight.

"It hurts, but it doesn't break our spirit," Ewing said. "We still believe in ourselves."

Miller is becoming more featured in NBA advertising. His feud with Knicks' fan and film director Spike Lee is also drawing attention. The Knicks will not respond to Miller's taunts, so he gives them to Lee in his court-side seat. Miller made choking motions and several choice comments to Lee during his run of five 3-point shots in the fourth period Wednesday.

Carson poised for rare golden double

EPSOM, England (R) — Willie Carson is poised to repeat one of horse racing's rare double — winning the Epsom Derby and Oaks in the same season.

After a thrilling success on Erhaab in Wednesday's Derby, Carson partners the talented but highly-strung Bulaxie, 13-8 favourite for Saturday's Fillies' classic.

Carson did the Derby-Oaks double in 1980 on Henbit and Bireme and 14 years on, at the age of 51, there is nothing to suggest his powers are on the wane.

His performance on Erhaab will dwell in the memory, the ex-champion conjuring one of the best finishes to a classic for years.

Carson, who complained long and loud about the number of no-hopers in Wednesday's race, will be happier with the Oaks field.

Provided Bulaxie does not become too stirred up in the preliminaries, she has the class and form to win, although she faces some substantial challenges.

French-trained Bonash (11-4) kept her unbeaten record in the group three Prix Vanteaux at Longchamp last month, showing a fine turn of speed to settle the issue over nine-furlong (1.9 km) trip which is far shorter than that for which

she was bred.

There is every reason to believe that she will be a much better filly now that she is given the chance to tackle a mile and a half (2.4 km).

Pat Eddery riders for trainer Andre Fabre and owner Khaled Abdullah — a powerful combination.

Balanchine (6-1), bids to provide Dubai-based trainer Hilal Ibrahim with his first British classic success.

She nearly did the trick in the English 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket in April, when, with only two wins in Minor Company as a juvenile behind her, she was sent off an unfancied 20-1 shot.

But she made those odds look very generous with a fine display under Frankie Dettori, racing prominently from the start and going down by just a short head to Las Meninas.

There is every reason to expect her to prove at least as effective over this longer trip, given the way she battled on strongly all the way to the line in the one mile (1.6 km) Guineas.

Wind in Her Hair (7-1) is unbeaten in her two races this season and trainer John Hills will be hoping for some compensation following Broadway Flyer's disappointing Derby run.

Bruguera, Berasategui to stage all-Spanish French Open final

PARIS (AP) — Sergi Bruguera, who struggled past Jim Courier in last year's French Open final, won easily in a four-set semifinal Friday to move into an all-Spanish title match with his friend and Davis Cup teammate, Alberto Berasategui.

Bruguera, seeded sixth, was far steadier in winning 6-3, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 on a windswept centre court. Courier, grouping for the consistency that helped him win this tournament in 1991 and 1992, committed 64 unforced errors and eight double-faults, to only 29 and one for his opponent.

Bruguera will defend his crown Sunday against the 23rd-ranked Berasategui in the first all-Spanish final in Grand Slam history.

Berasategui, who in less than a year has rocketed from obscurity to clay-court stardom, whipped 16 forehand winners to crush 46th-ranked Magnus Larsson of Sweden, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1, and reach the final without losing a set. It took just 72 minutes, one of the quickest men's matches of the tournament, but the centre court crowd was enthralled by Berasategui's brilliant play.

"He played a game I wasn't familiar with. I wasn't sure what was going on in the court," Courier said. "He's tough. Sergi's tough.... I'd like to see that one (the final) myself."

Bruguera said his five-set victory over Courier last year was more difficult.

"I controlled the match better this time," he said. "I was feeling I had more power than him. I could move him around. He could not attack as well as last year, and that gave me more confidence."

"At times he pressed me. More often than not I just made loose mistakes," said Courier, the No. 7 seed. "What I lacked in the defining moments of the match was aggression. I didn't play really badly, but I didn't play well."

Bruguera reached the semi-final without losing a set. Courier, though not as dominant, played well in a four-set victory over top-seeded Pete Sampras in a quarterfinal Tuesday.



Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (R) and Conchita Martinez kiss after their French Open semi-final Thursday which Sanchez won 6-3, 6-1 (AP photo)

Pierce looks forward to historic win

PARIS (R) — Emerging talent Mary Pierce bids to become the first French Open for 27 years when she meets Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in Saturday's final.

"I controlled the match better this time," he said. "I was feeling I had more power than him. I could move him around. He could not attack as well as last year, and that gave me more confidence."

"At times he pressed me. More often than not I just made loose mistakes," said Courier, the No. 7 seed. "What I lacked in the defining moments of the match was aggression. I didn't play really badly, but I didn't play well."

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Australian Leslie Turner in the 1967 final.

Graf, who was widely fancied to win her fourth title on the Paris clay in the continued absence of Monica Seles, summed up Pierce's abilities thus: "She plays faster than Monica and she hits the ball just as hard."

Pierce, whose rise has come as good news for women's tennis, badly wanting somebody to challenge the big names, will need all her strength to move past gritty Sanchez-Vicario, in the Paris final for the third time.

Saturday's match will feature the only two women to have beaten Graf this season. But while Sanchez-Vicario needed three tough sets to overcome the German 4-6 7-6 7-6 in the Hamburg final last month, Pierce took just 77 minutes to blow Graf off centre court 6-2 6-2 Thursday.

Sanchez-Vicario has no single stroke to compare with Pierce's devastating forehands and penetrating backhands but her solid all-round game and her fighting spirit can work miracles.

Sanchez-Vicario, who beat Graf in the 1989 final, has not been quite as impressive as Pierce in the previous rounds but she nevertheless managed to reach the final without dropping a set in her typical, battling style.

"My game has improved in many ways," she said after trouncing compatriot Conchita Martinez 6-3 6-1 in the semifinals. "Now I can attack and be more aggressive."

"I know everybody will want Mary to win but I don't care," she added. "I'll just try to put everything together and hopefully, things will go my way."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Maradona threatens World Cup walkout
BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Diego Maradona has again threatened to withdraw from Argentina's squad which is finalising preparations for the World Cup with a match against Croatia in Zagreb Friday. Press reports here said for the third time in four days Maradona had threatened to quit the side, this time following a row over the selection of another player. Speaking in Vienna Thursday, the Argentina captain said he was tired of the "lack of organisation" of team selection. Maradona's latest remarks follow a row over the omission from the squad of Dario Franco, the 29-year-old midfielder who plays for Real Zaragoza in Spain.

McCallum is temporary champion
MEXICO CITY (AFP) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) has officially named Jamaica's Mike McCallum as their interim light-heavyweight champion, but the WBC is still leaving the door open to Australian Jeff Harding. Harding was stripped of the title for failing to put it at stake since Dec. 3, 1992. He was injured in training shortly before he was due to face American, Randall Yonker in Las Vegas March 4, and withdrew from the fight.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSHON
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DIRECT THE DEFENSE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K J
♥ Q 10 7 6 2
♦ Q 8 2
♣ J 4

EAST
♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ A K J
♦ 10 7 3
♣ A 8 6

SOUTH
♠ Q 8 4
♥ Q 9 4
♦ A K J 6 4
♣ Q 10 9

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
"Gentlemen of the jury:
"This is a case of aggravated assault brought by my client, Mr. East, against Mr. West, a former bridge partner. The altercation followed a bridge hand played at the club, where the plaintiff and the defendant were defending a contract of three no trump.
"With nothing to guide but the defenders, West elected to attack with a club. East won the first trick with

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Nazek Al Hariri Charity Centre for Special Education

Handicrafts Exhibition

The Vocational Rehabilitation Centre at Nazek Al Hariri Charity Centre for Special Education will hold its annual handicrafts exhibition — carpets, rugs, woven material as well as bamboo and straw works — at the centre's premises in Dabooq, Amman between June 5 - 12, 1994.

The exhibition will be open for the public from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For more information please call: Tel. 847171/2 or Fax: 847173

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	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	Tom Cruise & Holly Hunter in The Firm Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00	1) Life After Marriage Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 2) ALADDIN Shows: 2:00, 5:00	CONCORD '1' FX - 2 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' THE GETAWAY Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6, 8:15, 10:15	Soon the new play !!!	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy: "PUNCTURED BAG"	The political comedy play: "WHAT A PEACE!" (Al Salam Ya Salam) At 8:30 p.m. For reservations please call 625155

Jordan is keen on Arab economic blocs, but no solid Syria-Lebanon move yet

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Even though Jordan supports economic integration among Arab states, no concrete steps have been taken to form an economic bloc, sources said Friday. "Economic integration is a Jordanian requirement, but the Kingdom will not enter into economic or political groupings before preparing solid foundations for them first," said a source, close to the government and the Royal Court. Agency France Press reported Thursday that Jordan, Syria and Lebanon had been discussing the formation of an economic cooperation council similar to the now defunct Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which grouped Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and Iraq. The ACC, which reportedly collapsed immediately after the eruption of the Gulf crisis in 1990. The agency quoted unidentified political sources in Jordan as saying the proposed alliance would aim at "countering the repercussions of the Palestinian-Israeli economic agreement" on the economies of the three countries. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an economic agreement with Israel in Paris in April and the deal was ill-received by Syria and Lebanon and invited the

condemnation of some economic experts in Jordan. Jordan's past experiences with regional alliances rendered it cautious when discussing the formation of such groupings, the source said. The source said the formation of the council was floated by Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Boutros who was briefed by Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri on discussions the latter held on the issue with Jordanian parliamentarians during his visit here last month. But the discussion with Mr. Berri did not go beyond the expression of some Jordanian parliamentarians of their belief in the viability of economic cooperation with Lebanon, sources said. Other informed sources said Syria had floated the issue with the Kingdom recently, but Jordan reiterated its position that solid groundwork had to be carried out before translating such ideas into reality. "How could you have economic integration with Syria which does not have an ambassador in Jordan yet and where Jordanian television transmission is jammed?" the source said. "Syria still has strong ties with allies who would not support such a project," said the source in reference to Gulf states which worked against the Arab Cooperation Council. "But since the intention is there, technical committees

could start working to discuss practical steps for realising the grouping," said the source, pointing out that Jordan believes in joint Arab action not only on the economic arena but also on the security and political ones. The source said that economic integration with Syria and Lebanon would be governed by regional and international politics and Jordan is aware of the limit to which Arab-Arab relations could go. Jordan and Syria took large steps towards economic integration in the late 1970s but the Kingdom was then punished by neighbouring countries which stopped their aid to the Kingdom in anger, the source said. "Neither Jordan nor Syria believe in taking short cuts" in implementing projects of such magnitude, added the source. The joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee will hold talks on economic cooperation in Amman on Monday. In addition to Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zubi, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa will attend the meeting in what was seen as an indication of the political significance that the talks would have. Sources said it is possible that ways of dealing with the economic impact of the PLO-Israel deal on the two countries could be discussed during the meeting, but they will not amount to discussing the formation of an economic alliance.

Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home last night after a private visit to Britain, during which they became grandparents for the first time. The Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath, who began the visit on May 7, attended the birth of twin grandchildren, Zein Al Sharaf and Tareq, born to Her Royal Highness Princess Sumayyah and her husband Nasser Judeh, who is director of the Jordan Information Bureau in London. The twins were born on May 9. While in Britain the Crown Prince met with eminent British personalities, including the Duke of Edinburgh, gave a lecture at a (Continued on page 5)



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath are received upon their return home on Friday by members of the Royal Family and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali (Petra photo)

COLUMN

Taiwan women MPs involved in wrestling match

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan women legislators screamed, traded slaps and kicks and pulled each other's hair in a fight during a National Assembly session Friday. Su Chih-Yang of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) walked up to the rostrum and slapped Kuo Su-Chun of the ruling Nationalist Party whom she accused of insinuating that she had set a trap for the assembly for the fourth day this week. Nationalist deputy Lin Chang-Ju rushed to Mr. Kuo's rescue and jumped on Ms. Su. These two women grabbed each other's hair and repeatedly slapped each other in the face while Ms. Kuo stood by stunned and broke into tears. Two other women deputies joined the fracas, trading kicks and wrestling. Ma Ai-Chen of the Nationalist Party fainted amid the fighting and was rushed to a nearby hospital. Ms. Su had earlier demanded an apology from two male Nationalist deputies for peeking at her panties when she was staging a sit-down protest in front of the podium in the assembly chamber Tuesday. Ms. Kuo later insisted that Ms. Su had invited the attention of the men by wearing a short skirt. "As a woman, one should be cautious about what one wears and how one acts," Ms. Kuo told the assembly before she was slapped. The Nationalist leadership demanded Ms. Su be barred from attending the remainder of the assembly's three-month session, which ends in July. A tearful Ms. Kuo told a news conference she would sue Ms. Su for publicly insulting her. The DPP leadership defended Ms. Su, saying she was not to blame because Ms. Kuo had a male chauvinist attitude.

Government doctors press demand with two-hour work stoppage

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Doctors at the Ministry of Health hospitals will observe a two-hour work stoppage today to press their demands for salary increases. According to a paediatrician who spoke on condition of anonymity, "we will go to work normally, but will not work between 10 a.m. and noon; we will only treat emergencies if needed." The doctors are demanding salaries equivalent to those of physicians working at the University of Jordan Hospital and military hospitals in the Kingdom. A list of demands and organisational matters provided to the Jordan Times mentions "improvement of the financial situation of the Ministry of Health doctors that would enable them to lead a dignified life and would prevent good doctors from leaving government hospitals." It also emphasises the need to hire good specialists at these

hospitals in order to improve health services and maintain a standard comparable to that of the other medical institutions. The demands sparked a strike about two years ago and continue to be an issue over a two-tier system of granting allowances, putting the doctors into the category of "before 1988" and after. According to the paediatrician, doctors who started work before 1988 are given 35 per cent of the "overall" salary as allowance while those who started work after 1988 are granted 30 per cent of the "basic salary allowance. This creates a gap between the doctors working for the same institution and has, as a result, made the doctors to seek for the cancellation or improvement of the system. According to a study presented in 1991 by the then minister of health, Mamdouh Al Abbadi, to the prime minister, the gap is even bigger between the pay received by the ministry's doctors and those working at military or university hospitals, reaching (at the time) 43 per cent in the case of a specialist and 38 per cent in that of a general practitioner. A specialist who had worked for five years at the University of Jordan Hospital, for example, would get a JD 1,234 salary per month, including incentives. The same doctor from a Ministry of Health hospital, hired according to the 1977 system, would get JD 684 (with 50 per cent incentives could reach JD 895) but JD 491 (JD 606 with incentives) if hired after 1988. The aim of today's stoppage is to "reach a unified system of payment" for doctors at all hospitals. If granted, according to a study done in 1991 by Dr. Na'el Ajlouni and Dr. Abbadi, this "equalisation" would have cost JD 2.5 million per year. Today's action will be followed by a four-hour work stoppage on Monday, a full day on Wednesday and an open strike on Saturday if the doctors' conditions are not met, according to the paediatrician.

Clinton honours heroes of Italian campaign

NETTUNO, Italy (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton on Friday commemorated World War II allied landings in Italy with a pilgrimage to the final resting place of 7,862 U.S. troops and a meeting with veterans of the 1943-1944 Sicily-Rome campaigns. Mr. Clinton, the first U.S. leader born after the war and first post-war commander-in-chief without military experience, flew from Rome by helicopter to the U.S. cemetery just east of the Anzio beachhead where 100,000 allied and German troops died. Under an overcast sky, the 47-year-old president solemnly strolled among the white marble headstones, stopping to decorate some of the graves with tiny American flags. Later, speaking in front of a sculpture of an American soldier and sailor standing with arms draped around each other's shoulders, he saluted those who fought to free Italy and Europe from Nazi tyranny 50 years ago, saying they fought "to save the world." He singled out U.S. senators Bob Dole, Ernest Hollings, Daniel Inouye and Califorme Pell — who all saw combat in Italy — and his own late father, William Blythe, a tank mechanic who wrote to a niece from the front that blazing guns had stripped all the leaves from the trees. "Fifty years later, we can see the difference their generation has made. America is strong, freedom is on the march, here in Italy the glorious trees, like the country, have been restored to life," Mr. Clinton said. Speaking on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Rome by U.S. troops, he told his audience: "We are the sons and daughters of the world they saved. Now our moment of common cause has come. It is up to us to assure a world of peace and prosperity for yet another generation." Both Mr. Dole and Mr. Inouye were wounded in Italy. Mr. Dole is the Senate Republican leader. Mr. Hollings, Mr. Inouye and Mr. Pell are Democrats like Mr. Clinton. Mr. Dole's right shoulder was shattered by German machine-gun fire, and Mr. Inouye lost his right arm to a grenade. Mr. Clinton spoke to some 1,000 veterans and guests on a hot, hazy day. Italian jets spewing green, white and red smoke — the colours of the Italian flag — flew low over the site after Mr. Clinton spoke. Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi also attended with Mr. Clinton. "It is inevitable that we ask ourselves why — why war, why destruction and why death?" Mr. Scalfaro said. The answer, Clinton, Pope discuss Mideast, page 2 (Continued on page 5)

Mrs. Clinton meets youngsters in Piazza Navona

ROME (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton started her visit to Rome Thursday handing out boxes of "Bill Clinton's M and MS" candy to 20 elementary schoolchildren from a public school in the heart of the historic city. The third, fourth and fifth grade students of the Giantruto Elementary School, where English is taught from the first grade, gave the American first lady a tour of Piazza Navona, a main tourist spot. The oval-shaped piazza has its origins in a site for games dating back to the 1st century. It regained popularity as a fashionable gathering spot for Romans in the Renaissance and is noted today for its fountains, including two by the Baroque master Bernini. As she walked around the fountain of Neptune at the far end of the square, Mrs. Clinton, dressed in a bright raspberry suit, chatted with the boys and girls, each wearing blue shorts and a white T-shirt with the child's name written across the front in coloured letters. "She's a lot nicer than we imagined — not at all strict," said Lorenzo, 10. "You can tell she likes kids," chimed in Matteo, 8. Hillary talked about her daughter Chelsea, 14, who she said was in the middle of exams back home. Despite heavy security, the atmosphere was very relaxed, with only a portion of the square roped off for the visit, allowing tourists and Romans to get a glimpse of the first lady. "She might be authoritarian but she's also very feminine," said a nursing student from the northern city of Vicenza who only gave her name as Raffaella. Mrs. Clinton was accompanied by her mother, Dorothy Rodham, and Rose-Anne Bartholomew, wife of the U.S. ambassador to Italy. The first lady complimented the children on their English and invited them to visit her in the White House. She handed each child a box of the candy complete with the presidential seal.

Islamists see municipal law as targeting them, wage campaign

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the fate of the controversial municipalities draft law still uncertain, deputies across the political spectrum differ in their interpretations of the government's intention behind the dissolution of eight municipal councils two weeks ago. Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies, strong critics of the government, saw the decision to replace heads and members of eight municipal councils by committees headed by governors as a move aimed at undermining the Islamists' role in managing the country's affairs. Abdul Aziz Jaber, an IAF deputy from Amman's First district told the Jordan Times that the government chose to dissolve those councils, many of whose members are Islamists, because "it (the government) does not like to see Islamists in a position of power." The deputy asserted that, according to the present municipalities law, it is illegal to dissolve any elected council, and that such measures were against the Kingdom's interests. According to the present law, municipal councils should be elected. However, a draft law, which has caused controversy in the government and legislature, calls for all municipal councils to be dissolved by Jan. 1, 1995 and the holding of municipal elections on July 1.

The confrontation started when deputies sought to amend the law as it was presented by the government, especially an article concerning members of the Greater Amman Municipal Council and their qualifications. The draft law did not specify the level of education for members of Amman's municipality. But deputies introduced amendments that stipulate that while heads of municipal councils should be literate, Amman's mayor should at least have a tawjihi certificate. Furthermore, heated debates over Amman's municipal council took place when deputies and the government argued over whether or not members of Amman Governorate should be elected or appointed. Legislators finally reached a compromise whereby they agreed that half of the council would be elected while the other half and the governor would be appointed. The draft law, which was introduced to legislators in early January, has since been passed back and forth between the Lower House and the Senate after differences over the qualifications of Amman's mayor, which, according to Senators, should not be conditional. Parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times that the draft legislation — now with the Senate — will not be approved unless both houses of Parliament reach an agreement over the controversial

articles, and that both houses will have to take a two-thirds majority vote on the draft law in a joint session before it can be approved and sent to His Majesty the King to be signed into law. IAF Deputy Bassam Omoush criticised the government's action in a report published in Al Rai. He accused it of being undemocratic and said it was "improper to dismiss people's wishes by imposing appointed committees to replace elected ones." Mr. Jaber said that by getting rid of municipal councils now the government had "thrown into turmoil the harmony of operation within municipalities whose members were democratically elected by the people." Among the municipal councils dissolved was that of Zarqa whose mayor was described by the Islamists as the best in the history of the municipality. The dismissed mayor, Yasser Omari, was launching a campaign for the next municipal council elections when he was surprised by the dissolution of the council. While Islamists accused the government of targeting Islamists, Mr. Omari told Al Bilad weekly that he did not think the government's decision was directed only against Islamists in the country, despite the Muslim brotherhood's assertions to the contrary. (Continued on page 5)

At least 164 killed in waves sparked by Indonesian quake

JAKARTA, Indonesia (Agencies) — Ocean waves triggered by a strong earthquake hit villages along the coast of Indonesia's eastern Java early Friday, killing at least 164 people and destroying hundreds of homes, officials said. Earlier, officials had reported 245 deaths, but said casualty lists from different districts had overlapped, resulting in double counting. The earthquake, with a preliminary magnitude of 5.9, struck at 1:17 a.m. (1817 GMT Thursday), when most villagers were asleep, officials said. A meteorological official, Johannes Tassar, said at least 405 people were injured and 42 people still missing after the quake in Banyuwangi regency, about 1,080 kilometres south-east of Jakarta. At least 413 homes and 245 fishing boats were destroyed, he said. Abdullah, a local official, said most victims were fish vendors living in six coastal villages that were hit by the waves about one hour after the earthquake. He quoted a fisherman who

survived, Slamet, as saying the waves caught sleeping villagers by surprise. "Before they could realise something was wrong, the water swept them away," he said. A teen-ager named Joko said he barely escaped by running to higher ground but lost his baby sister. "I woke up because there was so much noise in the house. My mother was calling for help. Then I realised something was wrong. My father and mother did not have time to save my baby sister because the water suddenly rose very fast in our home," he said. As he ran, he said, he saw the water swallowing his home and those of his neighbours. The districts worst hit were Purworejo, Sarongin and Tegaldimo around the town of Banyuwangi, wedged on a narrow strait between the islands of Java and Bali. Two thousand people were killed by earthquake and a tidal wave on the eastern island of Flores in late 1992. The quake struck at 1:17 a.m. (1817 GMT), with its epicentre in the Indian Ocean, triggering tidal waves that swamped Banyuwangi, meteorological official said. The biggest death toll was recorded in coastal Pesanggrahan with 116 fatalities, while 12 others died in neighbouring Purworejo. Local authorities could not be contacted in Banyuwangi, the main town of the district of the same name. Although tremors were felt in Malang district, north of the epicentre, no casualties were reported there, authorities said. The official Antara news agency said that in Sumbermanjing, on the southern coast of Malang, a total of 38 buildings, fish farms and boats were damaged or swept by waves, but there were no casualties. The Televisi Pendidikan Indonesia private television network said that minor damage was reported in surrounding areas. Antara said that a 25-man search and rescue team had been dispatched to the stricken area from Malang and were still searching for victims as well as evacuating the survivors late Friday.

Gaza police force 'overworked' and 'under-equipped'

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

GAZA CITY — Every day hundreds of people gather outside the headquarters of the Palestinian police force waiting to meet with officials. Carrying papers and a request of some sort, they seek to make their first contact with Palestinian authorities, who they hope, will begin to solve some of their problems. But the Gaza police headquarters, with only 500 policemen at its immediate disposal, is completely overworked. "Our priorities are law and order, to clean up Gaza and to help set the ground-work for a civic society," said the overall commander of all military units in Gaza, Major-General Nasr Yousef. Meeting delegation after delegation of well-wishers and people with complaints in his spartan office overlooking the Mediterranean Gen. Nasr is visibly tired, keeping a dawn-to-midnight office schedule. The return to Palestine is much harsher than expected by Gen. Nasr and most other Palestinians here. The 500 policemen stationed in Gaza and 3,500 other members of the Palestinian National Security Forces (PNSF) as well as the two investigative branches of the armed forces, have not been paid in months. Housing is extremely sparse and most of the policemen and PNSF members are still being dined by Gazans' in on-going gestures of welcome. But Gen. Nasr comes straight to the point. "We have not received sufficient promised equipment and aid from the donors," he said. According to Gen. Nasr almost none of the promised aid with the exception of blue police-uniforms and some weapons have reached the

police force. "The communications equipment, the cars, the office furniture have not materialised. I don't know how the donors expect us to work," says Gen. Yousef. A tour of several police stations showed that the furniture has been donated by local Gazans. The sanitary conditions of police and army bases left befuddled by Israel are "unacceptable" and belied Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement promising to leave well-kept and well-equipped stations behind for the Palestinians. No furniture was left behind. Sewage systems are being totally renewed, creating some work for Gazan plumbers. Last week newspaper ads called on eligible Palestinians to join the Palestinian police. "We waited so far because we can't train people without some equipment. So we want

to start recruitment in the hope that the needed equipment will arrive soon. The donors in Cairo and Oslo signed papers but thus far have done very little follow-up work," said Gen. Yousef. Palestinian policemen are being driven to their posts by the PNSF members in their American-provided khaki coloured Chevrolet jeeps. Gaza, says Gen. Nasr, needs some 3000 policemen. The "requirements" listed in the local newspapers for a policeman is that he be between 18 and 25 years of age, have a secondary school certificate, be of two Palestinian parents, be of good "national character" and agree to serve 12 years in the police force. Most of the serving policemen were either policemen during Egyptian and later Israeli rule or men conscripted outside the occupied territories specifically for police work.

Its purpose is to control traffic and deal with civic issues and register and act on complaints about crime. So far there had not been much crime, but at the police headquarters in the southern part of the Strip in Khan Yunis, eight men have already been arrested on charges ranging from theft to rape. Four men each sit in cells which measure five metres by five metres and the local police chief allows journalists to take a peek to observe the clean conditions of the cells. Photographs, however, are not allowed. Prior to the arrival of the Palestinian police, crimes were punished through the intervention of local notables or tribal leaders through retaliations, says Gen. Nasr. "Now people come and report to us and we must act fast to show that we can take control and make people feel secured by our presence."

But most of the work that Gaza policemen have to deal with is either traffic control or land complaints. When not directing the rather chaotic traffic in Gazan towns and refugee camps, policemen dutifully sit at their desks and register land complaints. Since the Israeli occupation began in 1967 land registration stopped; 27 years later issues of inheritance and family feuds over inheritance is by far the most prominent police-related issue for many Gazans. "These land issues are taking up a lot of our time. Soon a judiciary will be in place to deal with them in a more concrete form. We are being a bit overburdened by these issues because we have very little power to make legal decisions of this kind — once these decisions are taken we can implement them," said Gen. Yousef.

Dr. Luma Shawa
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